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VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mr Jeff S Jordan  
Supervisory Attorney  
Complaints, Examination & Legal  
Administration  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20463

Re MUR 5934 - Friends of Fred Thompson, Inc., et al

Dear Mr Jordan

This office represents Friends of Fred Thompson, Inc ("FOFT"), its treasurer, Lin Howard, and Senator Fred Thompson (collectively "Respondents") in the above-captioned MUR. We have reviewed the complaint filed on August 20, 2007, by Lane Hudson. As detailed below, the Complaint contains erroneous allegations and incorrect legal theories that fail to state a claim that a violation has occurred. Therefore, the Commission should find no reason to believe that Respondents violated the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("Act" or "FECA"), and the Commission should dismiss the Complaint.

### THE COMPLAINT

The Complaint alleges that Respondents violated the Commission's testing the waters regulations. See 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.72, 100.131. The Complaint specifically alleges that Respondents (1) raised funds in excess of what could reasonably be expected to be used for exploratory activities, (2) made statements that referred to Senator Thompson as a candidate for President, and (3) conducted activities in close proximity to the election or over a protracted period of time. As outlined below, these allegations are groundless and the Respondents conducted all of their activities in full compliance with the Commission's testing the waters regulations.

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## **FACTUAL AND LEGAL BACKGROUND**

On June 1, 2007, FOFT was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation pursuant to the Tennessee Nonprofit Corporation Act. FOFT began operations on June 4, 2007 as a tax-exempt political organization under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"). FOFT filed both a Political Organization Notice of Section 527 Status (Form 8871) and Political Organization Report of Contributions and Expenditures (Form 8872) as required by law. On its Mid-Year Form 8872 disclosure report, filed with the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") on July 31, 2007, FOFT duly reported, as required by law, all of the contributions it received and expenditures it made through June 30, 2007.

Under the Commission's testing the waters regulations, "[f]unds received solely for the purpose of determining whether an individual should become a candidate are not contributions" and are not required to be reported to the Commission during the testing the waters period. 11 C.F.R. § 100.72. See also 11 C.F.R. § 100.131 (containing parallel exception from the definition of expenditure). "If the individual subsequently becomes a candidate, the funds received are contributions subject to the reporting requirements of the Act. Such contributions must be reported with the first report filed by the principal campaign committee of the candidate." 11 C.F.R. § 100.72. See also 11 C.F.R. § 100.131.

FOFT began testing the waters activities on June 4, 2007. While FOFT operated as a testing the waters committee, the Respondents scrupulously complied with the Commission's testing the waters provisions, including the requirement that all contributions be raised subject to the limitations and prohibitions of the Act.

Senator Thompson filed a Statement of Candidacy with the Commission on September 6, 2007, designating FOFT as his principal campaign committee. On September 7, 2007, Senator Thompson filed a Statement of Organization with the Commission. Pursuant to the Act and Commission regulations, FOFT will file its initial disclosure report with the Commission on October 15, 2007, and FOFT will include on this report all monies raised and spent during the testing the waters period. See 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.72, 100.131.

## **LEGAL ANALYSIS**

Under the Commission's testing the waters regulations, an individual may receive funds and make payments without triggering candidate status if the funds are received and the payments are made for the purpose of determining whether an individual should become a candidate for federal office. See 11 C.F.R. §§ 100.72, 100.131. The testing the waters exception does not apply to funds received or expenditures made for "activities indicating that an individual has decided to become a candidate for a particular office or for activities relevant to conducting a campaign." 11 C.F.R. § 100.72(b). Examples of an individual's activities that are deemed to be relevant to conducting a campaign include public political advertising that publicizes an intention to campaign for federal office, authorized written or oral statements that refer to the individual as a candidate, fundraising in excess of what could reasonably be expected to be used for exploratory activities, taking action to qualify for the ballot.

under state law, or conducting activities in "close proximity to the election or over a protracted period of time " See 11 C F R §§ 100 72(b)(1)-(5)

As outlined below, Respondents have conducted all of their activities in full accord with the Commission's testing the waters regulations

**I. FOFT Did Not Violate Any Time Restrictions on How Long or When a Testing the Waters Committee May Operate.**

The Complaint alleges that Respondents violated the Commission's testing the waters regulations by conducting activities in "close proximity to the election or over a protracted period of time " See 11 C F R § 100 72(b)(4) This claim is utterly baseless There is no set time limit on how long a testing the waters committee may operate Moreover, FOFT functioned as a testing the waters committee for only approximately three months and registered with the Commission as Senator Thompson's principal campaign committee on September 7, 2007 Given that the presidential primary season has historically lasted 12 or even 15-18 months, operating a testing the waters committee for approximately 90 days, as FOFT did, can in no way be characterized as occurring over a protracted period of time

In addition, the 2007-08 presidential primary process began extraordinarily early For example, Rudy Giuliani and John McCain filed their Statements of Candidacy in November 2006, Mitt Romney, Hillary Clinton, and John Edwards filed candidate papers in January 2007, and Barack Obama filed candidate papers in February 2007 Accordingly, presidential candidates from both major parties during this election cycle will have campaigned for twelve to fourteen months before any primary or caucus takes place in 2008, and candidates will have campaigned in excess of 18 months before the major parties hold their nominating conventions next summer Operating as a testing the waters committee for only approximately three months, as FOFT did here, cannot be regarded as a protracted period of time under any circumstances, and certainly not where, as here, the time period constituted only a small fraction of the total length of time candidates competed in the presidential primary process

FOFT likewise did not operate as a testing the waters committee in close proximity to an election As noted above, FOFT registered with the Commission as Senator Thompson's principal campaign committee on September 7, 2007, which is months before any primaries or caucuses will be held No primary or caucus is scheduled to take place before January, 2008, and a large number of nominating contests will not occur until February or March of 2008 Given that FOFT became a campaign committee many months before any state's primary or caucus will be held, FOFT's testing the waters activities were not conducted in "close proximity" to an election for purposes of the Commission's testing the waters regulations

**II. FOFT Did Not Raise More Funds Than Were Reasonably Necessary for Exploratory Activities During the Testing the Waters Period.**

The Commission's regulations clearly recognize that fundraising strength is highly relevant in an assessment of whether an individual would be a viable candidate should he or she decide to run for

federal office. In addition, allowing individuals to gauge the strength of their potential candidacies, including their fundraising prowess, before they decide to become a candidate, is a key predicate of the Commission's testing the waters provisions. Consistent with this framework, the Commission's regulations do not place a numerical cap on the amount of money a testing the waters committee can raise, provided the committee does not raise money "in excess of what could reasonably be expected for exploratory activities." 11 C.F.R. § 100.72(b)(2).

FOFT reported raising \$3.46 million for its testing the waters activities through June 30, 2007 on its Mid-Year Form 8872 filed with the IRS on July 31, 2007. The Complainant, relying on the funds FOFT reported raising on its Mid-Year Form 8872, alleges that FOFT violated 11 C.F.R. § 100.72(b)(2). The allegation is groundless.

The \$3.46 million that FOFT raised is only a tiny fraction of the amount of money that past presidential campaigns collected during the primary process. For example, FOFT's fundraising amount is only 3.5% of the approximately \$100 million that George W. Bush raised for the primaries during the 2000 election cycle. Furthermore, FOFT's \$3.46 million fundraising figure is merely 1.3% of the amount George W. Bush raised for the primaries during the 2004 election cycle, and only 1.4% of the amount John Kerry collected for the primaries that cycle. The fact that FOFT during the period at issue raised less than one-twentieth of the amount of funds that past presidential campaigns raised for the primaries is powerful evidence that FOFT did not raise money "in excess of what could reasonably be expected for exploratory activities." 11 C.F.R. § 100.72(b)(2).

Moreover, FOFT during the time period at issue likewise raised only a small fraction of the amount of money that presidential candidates collected during the current election cycle. Below is a table indicating what the leading presidential candidates in both parties reported as receipts for their campaigns through the July 15, 2007, disclosure reports, and how FOFT's fundraising total during the time period at issue compared with each candidate's total.

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Reported Receipts</u>	<u>FOFT Proportionate Share</u>
Hillary Clinton	\$63,075,926.80	5.5%
Barack Obama	\$58,913,134.86	5.9%
Mitt Romney	\$44,432,349.56	7.8%
Rudy Giuliani	\$35,629,265.38	9.7%
John McCain	\$26,389,657.34	13.1%
John Edwards	\$23,129,157.72	15.0%

Given that FOFT during the time period at issue raised only a small proportion of what current and past presidential candidates collected during the primary season – in some instances less than 2% of what other candidates collected – FOFT by no means raised more funds than "could reasonably be expected to be used for exploratory activities" under 11 C.F.R. § 100.72(b)(2).

**III. The Complaint Erroneously Asserts that FOFT Raised Funds for the General Election During the Testing the Waters Period.**

The Complaint alleges that FOFT raised \$72,000 in contributions earmarked for the general election during the time period at issue and that this constitutes an "egregious violation of the 'testing the waters' clause, as it clearly indicates an intention for protracted campaign activity." Complaint at 1. The allegation is categorically false. Contrary to the Complainant's contention, FOFT neither solicited nor collected funds for the general election during the testing the waters period. Rather, FOFT raised funds subject to the limits that apply for the primaries, including the individual contribution limit of \$2,300 per election. If an individual contributed more than \$2,300, FOFT sought to reattribute the excess portion to the individual's spouse for the primary election within the 60-day time window prescribed by Commission regulations. See 11 C.F.R. §§ 110.1(k), 103.3(b). If FOFT was not able to reattribute an individual's contribution to a spouse for the primary election within 60 days, FOFT, pursuant to Commission regulations, refunded the excess portion to the contributor. *Id.*

FOFT raised funds solely for the primary election during the testing the waters phase and carefully complied with Commission regulations concerning reattributing and refunding excessive contributions. Complainant's allegation that FOFT raised funds for the general election, and therefore operated outside of the testing the waters provisions, is specious and should be dismissed.

**IV. FOFT Complied Fully with the Testing the Waters Advertising Restrictions.**

The Complaint alleges that FOFT violated the "paid advertising clause" of 11 C.F.R. § 100.72(b)(1) by spending \$133 on Google AdWords and \$21,142 for "Media," as disclosed on FOFT's Mid-Year Form 8872 filed with the IRS. See Complaint at 1.

As a threshold matter, Complainant erroneously contends that § 100.72(b)(1) bars all types of advertising. In actuality, § 100.72(b)(1) plainly indicates that testing the waters committees are not prohibited from taking out any advertisements, but only from running advertisements that "publicize [an individual's] intention to campaign for Federal office." *Id.*

All of FOFT's expenditures were made consistent with the provisions of 11 C.F.R. § 100.72(b)(1). The Complaint references a \$133 payment that FOFT made for Google AdWords. Complaint at 1. This payment was made to create a link to FOFT's testing the waters website, which was located at [www.ImWithFred.com](http://www.ImWithFred.com), when certain search terms were entered into the Google search engine. The Google message merely stated that Senator Thompson was testing the waters, and read as follows:

**I'm With Fred**

Fred Thompson is testing the waters  
To share your support, visit  
[www.ImWithFred.com](http://www.ImWithFred.com)

This message was fully consistent with 11 C F R § 100 72(b)(1) because it indicated that Senator Thompson was testing the waters and did not state or imply that Senator Thompson intended to campaign for President

The Complaint also alleges that FOFT made "an expenditure in the amount of \$21,142 for Media " Complaint at 1 As noted above, the Commission's testing the waters provisions do not bar all types of advertising and mass media communications In any event, the referenced expenditure was not for advertising Rather, the payment was made to New Media Strategies, which tracks blogs and provides strategic advice for dealing with online media

Complainant's contention that FOFT violated 11 C F R § 100 72(b)(1) is baseless and should be dismissed

**V. Respondents Repeatedly Indicated During the Testing the Waters Phase that Senator Thompson Was Not a Presidential Candidate and Had Not Decided Whether to Become a Candidate**

11 C F R § 100 72(b)(3) bars an individual while testing the waters from "mak[ing] or authoriz[ing] written or oral statements that refer to him or her as a candidate for a particular office " Complainant alleges that Respondents violated § 100 72(b)(3) during the testing the waters phase The public record indicates that prior to and during the testing the waters period, Senator Thompson and FOFT repeatedly emphasized that Senator Thompson was not a candidate for the Presidency and that Senator Thompson had not decided whether to become a candidate The following public statements are some of the numerous examples in which Senator Thompson and FOFT representatives reiterated that Senator Thompson was testing the waters to gauge the strength of a potential candidacy, and that Senator Thompson had not made a decision on whether to become a presidential candidate

- Jackson Baker, *Fred Thompson "Door Open" for Presidential Bid*, Memphis Flyer (Tennessee), March 11, 2007 (Attached hereto as Exhibit 1)

"Thompson opined that he would safely be able to wait as late as summer before deciding on the matter of a presidential run "

- Eric Pfeifer, *Actor Thompson ponders '08 run, Former GOP senator backed as 'true conservative,'* Washington Times, March 12, 2007, at A04 (Exhibit 2)

"Mr Thompson said he has no timetable for deciding whether to initiate a presidential campaign "

"I want to see how my colleagues who are on the campaign trail do now, what they say, what they emphasize, what they're addressing, and how successful they are in doing that, and whether or not they can carry the ball in next November, and mainly whether or not they can reach the American people, inspire the American people to do the tough things that we're going to need to do "

- *Professor Says Summer May Be Too Late for Thompson to Launch Bid*, Bulletin News Network, Inc The Frontrunner, March 14, 2007 (Exhibit 3)

"The Knoxville News Sentinel (3/14, Powelson) reports that ex-Tennessee Sen Fred Thompson (R) has said he may not decide whether to run for president until summer "

- John Fund, *Light, Camera Candidacy?*, Opinion Journal from the Wall Street Journal Editorial Page, March 17, 2007 (Exhibit 4)

"Fred Thompson clearly hasn't decided whether to run for president,"

- Chuck Raasch, *Is Fred Thompson about ready to lay down the Law and Order?* USA Today, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007 (Exhibit 5)

"Is Thompson going to run?"

"My sense is that he is seriously considering it No other way to put it,' [Thompson Spokesperson Mark] Corallo said "

- Bill Theobald, *Thompson's pre-decision tour continues*, The Tennessean (Nashville, Tennessee), April 18, 2007, at 3A (Exhibit 6)

"Thompson 'wants to make sure he has heard from as many people as he can' before making a decision, said his spokesman Mark Corallo "

"He wants to talk about the future of the party and the future of the (conservative) political movement,' Corallo said "

- Mike Allen, *F Thompson making summer decision*, The Politico, April 30, 2007 (Exhibit 7)

"Thompson has not made a final decision his advisers say "

- Interview by Sean Hannity with Fred Thomson, *Hannity & Colmes*, Fox News Channel, May 1, 2007 (Exhibit 8)

"HANNITY Bring us inside the Thompson mind, in terms of what's going on inside of your mind, as you make this decision about whether or not you want to get in this race and run for president What are you thinking about?"

"THOMPSON Well, obviously, there's some practical things, some contractual things that I'm doing There's some family considerations You don't change on a dime You think you're going this direction with your family, and your life, and you're going another direction You

take some time I'm taking this time I'm talking to some of the smartest people, I think, in the country, about some things that are very important to me "

- Bill Varian, *Thompson Refrains to Rush Decision*, St Petersburg Times (Florida), May 11, 2007 at 3B (Exhibit 9)

"Fred Thompson says he's in no hurry to decide whether to run for president, even as his potential opponents traverse the country raising millions in campaign money "

"Asked about creating a catastrophic fund to buffer property owners from rising insurance costs, Thompson said, 'That's Florida's issue' He said he hasn't looked into it, but might if he decides to run for president "

- Liz Sidoti, *Mary Sigur Points to Thompson Candidacy*, The Associated Press, May 23, 2007 (Exhibit 10)

"Numerous signs point to a Thompson candidacy and a summertime announcement is widely expected, although people close to him caution that he has not made a final decision about running "

- Matt Wilson, *Lawmakers line up for Thompson*, Chattanooga Times Free Press (Tennessee), May 25, 2007 (Exhibit 11)

"Mark Corallo, a spokesman for Mr Thompson, said the former senator and actor is 'absolutely grateful for the support' from a group that backs him with 'no prompting, no help, no contact '"

"'It certainly gives him more to think about when he makes his final considerations,' he said But Mr Corallo said there are several other factors to consider, such as family issues and timing "

"'He has to make sure that the man meets the times,' he said "

- Holly Bailey, *The Sign of the Red Truck*, Newsweek, May 28, 2007, at 10 (Exhibit 12)

"Mark Corallo, a spokesman, says Thompson 'just hasn't had the heart to sell her [his red pickup truck] I don't know if the truck will be resurrected,' he told NEWSWEEK, adding that Thompson has made no decision about 2008 "

- Cable News Network, *Sources: Thompson is taking big step toward White House run*, (May 30, 2007), available at <http://www.cnn.com/2007/POLITICS/05/30/thompson.2008/index.html> (Exhibit 13)

"'He is entering the 'testing the waters' phase,' said one of the sources close to Thompson 'It allows the senator to go out and gauge support '"



- Liz Sidoti, *Fred Thompson moves ahead with likely presidential candidacy*, Associated Press, May 30, 2007 (Exhibit 14)

“Senator Thompson is still seriously considering getting into the presidential contest and he is doing everything he has to do to make that final decision,” said Mark Corallo, a Thompson spokesman “Stay tuned”

“Officials cautioned that Thompson has made no final decision”

- Liz Sidoti, *Fred Thompson takes next step toward presidential race*, Associated Press, May 30, 2007 (Exhibit 15)

“Despite the movement, officials cautioned that Thompson has made no final decision about whether to run or where and when to get in the race should he decide to go forward”

- Carl Hulse and Patrick Healy, *Star in G O P as Ex-Senator Moves to Run*, New York Times, May 31, 2007 (Exhibit 16)

“In another development on Wednesday, Mr Thompson asked to be released from his role on ‘Law & Order’ on NBC, the Associated Press reported The show’s executive producer, Dick Wolf, said Mr Thompson had told him that he ‘has not made a firm decision about his political future’ but that he was concerned about ‘the creative and scheduling constraints of the upcoming season’”

“Fred Thompson is doing everything he has to do to gauge support to come to a final decision in a timely manner,” said Mark Corallo who has been acting as his spokesman”

- Liz Sidoti, *AP Interview Thompson says no decision yet, but sounds like a candidate anyway*, Associated Press, June 3, 2007 (Exhibit 17)

“We’ve not made a final decision on it But obviously we’re thinking pretty seriously about it,” he [Thompson] said “Everybody who has an opportunity to make even a small difference in the course of the direction of the country has got to look at that very seriously”

“We will be talking to a lot of people, we’ll be raising some money, we’ll be putting together a staff in order to reach out to some more people and test the level of support we have,” Thompson said “So we’ll see a little bit later on where we go”

- Beaumont Thomas, *Hare puts run closer for Fred Thompson*, Des Moines Register (Iowa), June 26, 2007, at 1B (Exhibit 18)

“This is the kind of stellar team Senator Thompson is attracting as he continues to move forward in his determinations,” Thompson spokesman Mark Corallo said “It means Senator Thompson will be ready, should he decide to run, and will have the right team in place to be successful when it’s time to go to the caucuses”

- Erik Schelzig, *International News*, Associated Press Worldstream, June 26, 2007 (Exhibit 19)

"More than 200 supporters gathered earlier Tuesday at the Nashville airport to greet Thompson. He told the crowd he's 'testing the waters' about a run."

- Jim Kuhnhehn, *In special status, Thompson doesn't have to disclose money yet*, The Associated Press State & Local Wire, July 6, 2007 (Exhibit 20)

"Thompson, the 'Law & Order' television actor and former Republican Tennessee Senator, has been retaining staff, opening a headquarters, holding fundraisers and touting his credentials as a potential White House contender. But he has not said definitively that he's a candidate for president."

- *Thompson Begins Two-Day Southland Fund-Raising Trip Today*, City News Service, July 31, 2007 (Exhibit 21)

"We are in a 'testing the water' phase," Linda Rozett, the communications director for Friends of Fred Thompson, told The Times. "It would not be accurate to compare a candidate to a noncandidate."

- Jo Mannes, *Thompson taps more Missourians for donations. He attends private fundraising event in Lado, says he is flattered by warm reception in state*, St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri), August 22, 2007 (Exhibit 22)

"Clearly I'm going to be reaching a resolution and making a statement in the near future," Thompson said.

"I continue to be gratified that strangers would show up and contribute what I consider to be large amounts of money for someone who is testing the waters for president, who they've never met," Thompson said.

None of the foregoing statements state or even imply that Senator Thompson was a candidate for President or had even decided to become a presidential candidate. Rather, the statements repeatedly made clear that Senator Thompson wished to gauge the potential strength of any candidacy and analyze and weigh a number of personal and professional considerations before making any decision on whether to become a candidate. These are precisely the kinds of activities and considerations that the Commission's testing the waters provisions contemplate and permit.

Complainant relies heavily on MUR 5365 (Rev. Al Sharpton for President Exploratory Committee), in which the Commission found that Mr. Sharpton and his presidential committee violated the testing the waters provisions. However, MUR 5365 is readily distinguishable from the current matter. In MUR 5365, the Commission emphasized that Mr. Sharpton had written a book in which the first chapter was titled, "Mr. President." First General Counsel's Report at 5. Moreover, Mr. Sharpton repeatedly referred to himself as a candidate in the book, including the following statements: "I am running for

President to finally put the issues concerning most Americans onto the front burner", and "It is on those qualities that I am seeking the Presidency of the United States in 2004." Id. Mr Sharpton's statements in MUR 5365 directly contravened 11 C.F.R. §100.72(b)(3), which prohibits an individual while testing the waters from "mak[ing] or authoriz[ing] written or oral statements that refer to him or her as a candidate for a particular office." Mr Sharpton's statements in MUR 5365 bear no resemblance to the statements made by Senator Thompson and by representatives of FOFT during the testing the waters period.

In MUR 5251 (Joe Rogers), another enforcement action involving the FEC's testing the waters regulations, statements made by the potential candidate during the testing the waters phase clearly indicated that the potential candidate had decided to run for Congress. Mr Rogers declared on numerous occasions that he was a candidate for Congress in 2002, including stating at a fundraiser "I want to be your Congressman and need your help to win the seat." First General Counsel's Report at 4. Furthermore, a fundraising letter signed by Mr Rogers stated "[T]hank you in advance for your help in this new campaign. With your support I look forward to serving you in the next United States Congress." Id. Mr Rogers' statements in MUR 5251 clearly contravened 11 C.F.R. 100.72(b)(3) because he expressly and repeatedly referred to himself as a candidate and indicated that he was running for federal office. Therefore, the General Counsel found reason to believe that Rogers violated the testing the waters provisions, but recommended that the Commission take no further action against the respondents. As with MUR 5365, the statements made in MUR 5251 bear no resemblance to the statements made by Senator Thompson and by representatives of FOFT during the testing the waters period.

None of the statements at issue in the present matter ever indicated that Senator Thompson was a candidate for the Presidency or that Senator Thompson had made a decision on whether to become a presidential candidate. Accordingly, the Commission should find no reason to believe that Respondents violated 11 C.F.R. § 100.72(b)(3).

### CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission should find there is no reason to believe that the Respondents violated the Act, and this matter should be dismissed.

Sincerely,

  
Corinne Falencki

## **Exhibit 1**

# **Memphis Flyer, Online**

## **Fred Thompson: "Door Open" for Presidential Bid**

By JACKSON BAKER

**JACKSON BAKER**

Former Tennessee senator and actor Fred Thompson, who has spent his time since leaving the U S Senate in 2002 as a principal on NBC-TV's *Law and Order*, may be a candidate for president in 2008 "I'm giving some thought to it I'm going to leave the door open," Thompson told host Chris Wallace on *Fox News Sunday*, thereby confirming a spate of recent rumors on various weblogs Republican Thompson, a 1964 graduate of the University of Memphis, acknowledged that his friend and mentor Howard Baker, another former Tennessee senator, had seriously promoted such a candidacy on the grounds that no acceptable conservative was so far in the running Quoting Adlai Stevenson, a Democratic candidate in 1952 and 1956, Thompson said the paradoxical task of a candidate was to "do what's necessary to become president and still deserve to be president"

In answer to Wallace's questions, Thompson said he was pro-life, "tolerant" of gays but opposed to gay marriage, anti-gun control but supportive of campaign finance legislation and flexible on immigration law He also said President Bush's surge policy in Iraq should be given a chance to work

Thompson opined that he would safely be able to wait as late as summer before deciding on the matter of a presidential run

Date created 03/11/2007

URL for this story <http://www.memphisflyer.com/memphis/Content?cid=25591>

## **Exhibit 2**

**March 12, 2007 Monday**

**SECTION: NATION, A04**

**LENGTH: 527 words**

**HEADLINE: Actor Thompson ponders '08 run,  
Former GOP senator backed as 'true conservative'**

**BYLINE: By Eric Pfeiffer, THE WASHINGTON TIMES**

**BODY:**

**Fred Thompson has played the president in the movies, and the ex-senator now says he is "leaving the door open" on a real run for the White House in 2008**

**The Tennessee Republican said he has been encouraged to run by some of his former colleagues, who cite the lack of a "true conservative" among the top tier of candidates already on the campaign trail**

**"It's not really a reflection on the current field at all," he said during an appearance on "Fox News Sunday" yesterday, discussing his potential bid "As you know, some of them are very good friends of mine I'm going to wait and see how it pans out, see how they do, how it develops "**

**Mr Thompson, 64, said he was pondering a run after former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker and other Tennessee Republicans began drumming up support for him**

**"It will be interesting to me as I listen to people and learn and watch what's going on and what's the reaction, and the poll numbers and so forth, as to whether or not my instinct on that is right," he said**

**Mr Thompson, who has maintained a role on the popular NBC legal drama "Law and Order" since leaving the Senate in 2003, explained his position on a number of issues important to the Republican base, including abortion, gun control, immigration and the war in Iraq**

**On Iraq, Mr Thompson said as president his strategy would largely mirror that of President Bush "I would do essentially what the president's doing I know it's not popular right now, but I think we have to look down the road and consider the consequences of where we are "**

**The only issue discussed where Mr Thompson broke from the views of the conservative base**

was campaign-finance reform. As a senator, he voted for the McCain-Feingold campaign-finance reform legislation, which became law.

"We've got a situation where people could give politicians huge sums of money, which is the soft-money situation at that time, and then come before those same politicians and ask them to pass legislation for them," he said. "So that's not a nonconservative position, although I agree that a lot of people have interpreted it that way."

Aside from his acting career, Mr. Thompson has remained involved in politics since leaving Washington. He recently served as a member of the Libby Legal Defense Trust steering committee, helping to raise money for former White House aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby Jr.'s legal team.

"I'd do it now," he said when asked if the president should pardon Mr. Libby, who was found guilty on four counts last week of lying to investigators in the Valerie Plame CIA-leak case. "This is a trial that never would have been brought in any other part of the world. This is a miscarriage of justice."

Mr. Thompson said he has no timetable for deciding whether to initiate a presidential campaign.

"I want to see how my colleagues who are on the campaign trail do now, what they say, what they emphasize, what they're addressing, and how successful they are in doing that, and whether or not they can carry the ball in next November, and mainly whether or not they can reach the American people, inspire the American people to do the tough things that we're going to need to do."

**GRAPHIC:** Former Sen. Fred Thompson, who has had a role on TV's "Law and Order" since leaving Washington in 2003, supports President Bush's strategy for the war in Iraq. [Photo by Getty Images]

### **Exhibit 3**

***Professor Says Summer May Be Too Late For Thompson To Launch Bid The Frontrunner March 14, 2007 Wednesday***

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**March 14, 2007 Wednesday**

**SECTION: NATIONAL CAMPAIGN NEWS**

**LENGTH: 405 words**

**HEADLINE: Professor Says Summer May Be Too Late For Thompson To Launch Bid**

**BODY:**

**The Knoxville News Sentinel (3/14, Powelson) reports that ex-Tennessee Sen Fred Thompson (R) "has said he may not decide whether to run for president until summer But that could be too late to win, a University of Tennessee professor says**

**By summer, most of the campaign organizers and big-money people could be committed to other candidates, said Michael Gant, a political science professor focusing on American politics and polling research 'Anybody [who] tries to get in seven months before the primaries and caucuses begin -- it's just absurd,' Gant said in an interview 'Most of the campaign organizers, most of the money is tied up All the activists, the party people everybody you need to get out the vote are nailed down '" But Thompson, TN2 Rep John J Duncan Jr (R) and ex-Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker Jr (R) "have said they don't believe he would start too late Thompson has somewhat of a national following from eight years in the Senate through 2002, from his current role on the NBC hit drama 'Law & Order' and from roles in about 20 big-screen movies " Duncan "said it is not too late because developments on TV and in the mass media 'can move very, very quickly There are big-money people all over the country and if they see some fast movement toward somebody, they will move fast themselves It seems to me he'd have a fairly good chance because all of the others have problems of some sort or another '"**

**Thompson Helping Raise Cash For Libby Defense Fund**

**U S News & World Report (3/13, Bedard) reported on its website, "In a move that suggests he's not worried that backing convicted perjurer Lewis 'Scooter' Libby will hurt his presidential chances, former Sen Fred Thompson is planning to host several fundraisers to help the former Cheney aide pay his legal fees In fact, allies of Thompson are trying to bring attention to the Law and Order actor/politician's move and call for a presidential pardon as a demonstration that he sticks with friends no matter what the political outcome 'Give Fred props on the pardon**

advocacy,' says one pal 'And he's raising money for the www.scooterlibby.com defense fund ' Thompson, working with GOP operative Mary Matalin, has helped raise \$4 million for the fund so far, and a defense fund organizer" on Tuesday "said that the duo is looking to hold more fundraisers in the spring for Libby's conviction appeal, the dates are still being worked out "

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## Exhibit 4

Wall Street Journal com Opinion Journal

### THE WEEKEND INTERVIEW

## Lights, Camera . . . Candidacy?

Fred Thompson is shaking up the GOP presidential field And he's not even running yet

BY JOHN FUND

Saturday, March 17, 2007 12 01 a m

NEW YORK—"Expect her to recount every moment of her ordeal," the savvy district attorney mused to his deputy "There won't be a dry eye in the jury "

"That's a take!" says a director of the hit NBC series "Law and Order " With that, Fred Thompson, the former U S senator from Tennessee who has played "strict constructionist" prosecutor Arthur Branch for the past four years, walks back with me to his dressing room to talk about a new role he might soon be undertaking surprise Republican presidential candidate

It is a slightly surreal setting to be talking big-league politics But not unprecedented In 1965, Ronald Reagan held early strategy meetings on his nascent race for governor of California on the set of "Death Valley Days " In 2003, Arnold Schwarzenegger stepped off a plane from a world-wide publicity tour for his last "Terminator" film and immediately huddled with advisers on his own campaign for governor Both men effectively used their celebrity status to completely transform the races they entered

So too may Fred Thompson When we meet on Thursday night, it's only been four days since he appeared on Fox News to merely announce he was "looking at" running Chuck Todd, the political director of NBC News, notes in amazement how "a retired senator can show a tiny bit of interest and literally shake up the race overnight "

And he is shaking up the race. Every GOP candidate is nervously watching the reaction to his possible entry J C Watts, an Oklahoma congressman from 1995 to 2003, has endorsed him "I define Fred Thompson as AC, what's AC? All class "

Fan blogs for "Law and Order" note that since the show is especially popular among women, a Thompson race could help close the GOP's "gender gap " The most pithy comment is from Craig Hammond, a former mayor of Bluefield, W.Va He told the Bluefield News "He's the tall timber we've been waiting for He's the total package He can hold the red states and pick up a few blue ones along the way "

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But Mr Thompson appears serene about all the speculation swirling around him "Those running are all good guys, and would be good presidents," he says leaning back in a recliner "But there are truly vital issues--from the looming entitlement crisis to nuclear proliferation--I'm not afraid to talk about Lots of people have such a low regard for politicians that they're open to a campaign that would be completely different "

So how would a possible Thompson campaign be distinctive? "Politics is now one big 24-hour news cycle, but we seem to spend less time than ever on real substance," he muses

**"What if someone harnessed the Internet and other technologies and insisted on talking about real issues in more depth than consultants would advise? What if they took risks with their race in hopes that the risks to our children could be reduced through building a mandate for good policy?"**

**Children are a lot on Mr. Thompson's mind--especially his own. In 2002 he lost his daughter after she failed to come out of a drug-overdose-induced coma. Already frustrated with the Senate's endless maneuvering over minutiae, he decided to retire at age 60 only two months later and change his life. In June of that year he married his second wife, Jen (his first marriage at age 17 ended amicably in divorce in 1985). In 2003 they had their first child (a second was born last November).**

**"Within the space of a year and a half, I experienced the ultimate tragedy and the ultimate happiness," Mr. Thompson sighs. "I count my blessings, and I have a real focused sense of purpose now."**

**That brings us to some of the knocks critics have about his possible parachute drop into the "Survivor 2008" competition. Bluntly put, Fred Thompson had a reputation for being lazy in wanting to do the political chores that come with office. People openly question if he has "the fire in the belly" to really make a serious race.**

**"They used to say I moved slowly," he chuckles. "But I move deliberately. I won every one of my races by more than 20 points in a state Clinton carried twice."**

**But what about his well-known reputation for dating up a storm as a bachelor senator in Washington in the 1990s? "I plead guilty," he says. "But everyone I knew is still a friend, and if somehow they aren't I guess we'd hear about it. I'm happy with my life partner and children now."**

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**On issues, he addresses head-on the major complaints conservatives have about his record. He was largely stymied in his 1997 investigation of both Clinton-Gore and GOP campaign fund-raising abuses. Key witnesses declined to testify or fled the country, though evidence eventually surfaced of a Chinese plan to influence U.S. politics. He won't argue with those who say he showed "naiveté" about how he would be stonewalled in his investigation. He says he's wiser now.**

**Many on the right remain angry he supported the campaign finance law sponsored by his friend John McCain. "There are problems with people giving politicians large sums of money and then asking them to pass legislation," Mr. Thompson says. Still, he notes he proposed the amendment to raise the \$1,000 per person "hard money" federal contribution limit. Conceding that McCain-Feingold hasn't worked as intended, and is being riddled with new loopholes, he throws his hands open in exasperation. "I'm not prepared to go there yet, but I wonder if we shouldn't just take off the limits and have full disclosure with harsh penalties for not reporting everything on the Internet immediately."**

**Mr. Thompson has also been criticized for failing to back some comprehensive tort-reform bills because of his background as a trial lawyer. Here he insists his stance was based on grounds of federalism. "I'm consistent. I address Federalist Society meetings," he says, noting that more issues should be left to the states. For example, he cast the lonely "nay" in 99-1 votes against a national 0.08% blood alcohol level for drivers, a federal law banning guns in schools, and a measure limiting the tort liability of Good Samaritans. "Washington overreaches, and by doing so ends up not doing well the basics people really care about." Think Katrina and Walter Reed.**

Indeed, the federal government's inability to function effectively would likely be a major theme of any Thompson campaign "Audits have shown we've lost control of the waste and mismanagement in our most important agencies It's getting so bad it's affecting our national security "

Mr Thompson says that while a senator he was long concerned with U S intelligence failures "The CIA has better politicians than it has spies," he says, referring to the internecine turf wars that have been a feature of the Bush administration A key problem, Mr Thompson notes, is a general lack of accountability in government, where no one pays any price for failure When asked about President Bush's awarding the Medal of Freedom to outgoing CIA Director George Tenet after U S intelligence failures in Iraq became apparent, he shakes his head "I just didn't understand that "

The next president, according to Mr Thompson, needs to exercise strong leadership "and get down in the weeds and fix a civil-service system that makes it too hard to hire good employees and too hard to fire bad ones " He doesn't offer specifics on what to do, but notes the "insanity" of the new Congress pushing for the unionization of homeland security employees only five years after it rejected the notion in the wake of 9/11 "Should we tie ourselves up in bureaucratic knots with the challenges we may have to face?" he asks in wonderment

The challenges, he says, are numerous On Iraq, he admits "we are left with nothing but bad choices " However, he says the "worst choice" would be to have Osama bin Laden proven right when he predicted America wouldn't have the stomach for a tough fight The costs of Iraq have been high, but they could be even higher "if we have another stain on America like that infamous scene from Saigon 1975 in which our helicopters took off leaving those who supported us grabbing at the landing skids "

Mr Thompson is especially worried about nuclear proliferation He serves as chairman of the International Security Advisory Board, along with former Clinton CIA Director Jim Woolsey and former Democratic Sen Chuck Robb The board recently received an unclassified briefing that convinced him three or four countries in the Middle East are "on the cusp" of acquiring nuclear weapons should the Iranians carry through with their own weapons program

He urges continued pressure on Iran, which he says has grave domestic problems "Iran may fall of its own weight, and we can help that by offering vocal support to dissident groups and making effective use of the airwaves to reach its people "

On domestic issues, Mr. Thompson says a major reason Republicans lost last November was that they aided and abetted runaway government spending. Yet Democrats, he contends, are incapable of following through on their pledges to be fiscally prudent "Their political coalition needs more revenue like a car requires gasoline," he laughs "Reagan showed what can be done if you have the will to push for tough choices and the ability to ask the people to accept them "

But Mr Thompson says those tough choices shouldn't include the tax increases contemplated in the new budget released by Senate Democrats this week "The phony static accounting the government uses has obscured just how successful the 2003 tax cuts have been in boosting the economy," he says "Lower marginal tax rates have proven to be a key to prosperity now by Kennedy, Reagan and Bush It's time millionaires serving in the Senate learned not to overly tax other people trying to get wealthy "

I note that despite his humble background as the grandson of a sharecropper and son of a used-car salesman, Mr Thompson himself is now quite wealthy So how would he campaign against Democratic millionaires he used to serve in the Senate with, such as Hillary Clinton or John Edwards? He smiles and says he has plenty of zingers and points he would make but it's premature to discuss them

Mr Thompson says he can compete with Democrats in talking plainly about the anxiety many Americans have about the economy, despite good macro numbers "Someone who is 18 today may well have 10 employers in their career," he says "That's completely different from how their parents lived I would address that insecurity and help people adapt without shooting ourselves in the foot with protectionism and income redistribution I had 10 employers before I finished law school "

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Fred Thompson clearly hasn't decided whether to run for president, and he underestimates just how much the traditional fund-raising he disdains may be necessary for his long-shot campaign. But he has assets that add up to an impressive portfolio

As Republican counsel in the Watergate hearings, he began building a reputation as a straight-shooter It was he who asked the question that forced a White House deputy to admit that Richard Nixon had secretly recorded his Oval Office conversations.

Later in the 1970s he played a key role in exposing a Tennessee cash-for-pardons scandal, his acting career began when he won the part of playing himself in the 1985 movie version of the story. Today, his national exposure is greater than ever with a dozen of his movies playing as TV repeats All of this month he is substituting for radio legend Paul Harvey, whose show is heard on more than 1,200 stations.

Indeed, it is his need to wake up at 5 a m. the next morning, so he can tape three Harvey segments before returning to the "Law and Order" set for a long day of shooting, that prompts Mr Thompson to close out our chat "With my current schedule I might have more time to myself if I gave all this up and did start a campaign," he says as he dons a sports coat and heads for his car

So many voters remain unsold on any of the current GOP contenders that Mr Thompson just might trade his TV sound stage for a campaign microphone As this is the first truly open Republican nomination fight in decades, the party might as well revel in the competition it claims to cherish in other parts of life

*Mr Fund is a columnist for OpinionJournal.com*

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## Exhibit 5

USA Today

March 30, 2007

NewPolitics

Chuck Raasch

Is Fred Thompson about ready to lay down the 'Law and Order'?

WASHINGTON — Fred Thompson's surprising third-place showing in the latest USA TODAY-Gallup Poll is certainly a reflection of rank-and-file Republicans' unease about the declared GOP candidates. But it also provides insight into the show-biz requirements of a successful modern candidate.

Thompson, who has oscillated between the political and entertainment culture for 35 years, personifies that cross-cultural appeal more than any Republican now in the field. Simply put, Americans like a little rock star in their presidential candidates. (See Barack Obama.)

The question is whether a few polls and some Internet buzz is enough to entice a 64-year-old man with two children under age four and a successful career on NBC's *Law and Order* series to jump into an 18-month meat grinder toward the presidency.

Because he has name identification and friends in both the political and entertainment world, he probably could wait until summer to decide, especially if some of the GOP front-runners continue to slide. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., continues to do reasonably well in polls but said recently he got a late start on fundraising. Translation: His first-quarter 2007 numbers might not be so good. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney slipped to just 3% in the recent USA TODAY poll. Front-runner Rudy Giuliani continues to lead in GOP polls, but his support fell 13 points in a month in that poll that included Thompson, and Giuliani continues to face questions about his support of abortion rights, gay rights and gun control. Thompson, a tower of a man, has played virtually every kind of government authority figure, from FBI director on down, in more than a dozen movies. He plays a law-and-order district attorney on "Law and Order." Before being elected to the U.S. Senate from Tennessee in 1994, he was a Republican lawyer on the Watergate committee and then went into acting. He is well thought of as a movement conservative, though his support of campaign finance reform puts him at cross purposes with right-wing activist organizations that don't like the restrictions on third-party advertising in federal campaigns.

Evangelist James Dobson, who has taken it upon himself to pass judgment on a number of GOP wannabes, told U.S. News and World Report recently he didn't think Thompson was a Christian. Thompson's spokesman Mark Cornillo disputed that, saying he was a member of the Church of Christ.

Corallo told Gannett News Service that the USA TODAY-Gallup Poll, which showed Thompson at 12%, caught the ex-Tennessee senator's attention

"He said it's just one more thing to think about," Corallo told GNS "There's no doubt it caught his eye No doubt it caught all of our eyes I was bowled over "

The poll, which was taken March 23-25, indicated that a lot of Thompson's support was coming from Giuliani and Romney McCain's support was roughly equal to what it had been in a poll the first week of March, going up from 20% to 22% But Giuliani dropped 13 points, to 31%, and Romney dropped 5 to just 3% Romney risks becoming this cycle's Lamar Alexander — an ex-governor with an impressive resume, polished public style and robust media, but a candidate who ultimately fails to catch on

Hodding Carter III, who advised Jimmy Carter in the 1976 campaign and is an expert on Southern politicians, said he believes Thompson is "blessed" with the kind of exposure that other candidates have to spend months, even years, building

"The sucker is out there making movies and television, a constant presence who has a political background on several grounds," Hodding Carter said "He has about two full generations of name recognition among people who are in the (political) business, first as Watergate minority counsel and then as Republican activist And then as movie and television star "

Carter continued "I think if there is any kind of gridlock in the sense of these earlier months (in the GOP primary), a lot of people are going to be looking for the breakout fellow And he is more likely the breakout fellow, a little more like the guy McCain was last time (in 2000) "

Is Thompson going to run?

"My sense is he is seriously considering it No other way to put it," Corallo said Here's another sign that Thompson is on the move His wife Jen, a former GOP PR operative, has been dusting off her old political reporter contacts list

## **Exhibit 6**

***Thompson's pre-decision tour continues The Tennessean (Nashville, Tennessee) April 18, 2007  
Wednesday***

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The Tennessean (Nashville, Tennessee)**

**April 18, 2007 Wednesday  
PRINT Edition**

**SECTION: NEWS, Pg 3A**

**LENGTH: 376 words**

**HEADLINE: Thompson's pre-decision tour continues**

**BYLINE: BILL THEOBALD {dcide} Contact Bill Theobald at [wtheobal@gns.gannett.com](mailto:wtheobal@gns.gannett.com)**

**BODY:**

**Tennessean Washington Bureau**

**{ } WASHINGTON &mdash; When actor and former Sen Fred Thompson first said in a television interview March 11 that he was "giving some thought" to running for president, it sounded almost casual**

**Since then, however, Thompson and his supporters have conducted a methodical pre-campaign campaign, which continues today with a trip to Capitol Hill to meet with Republican House members who are interested in his potential candidacy**

**Rep Zach Wamp, R-Tenn , one of those pushing a Thompson run, arranged for the meeting at the National Republican Club of Capitol Hill**

**He said 60 Republicans expressed interest in meeting Thompson, and he expects at least 40 will attend**

**{ } Conservatives favor him**

**"The people that are most motivated and excited are the conservatives," Wamp said The top two announced GOP candidates, former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Arizona Sen John McCain, are not favored by conservatives because of their views on social issues**

290044230007  
"They are looking at the current field and saying, 'No one here excites me, and Fred Thompson excites me,'" Wamp said. "They also think he may transcend the party," which means Thompson could attract independents and some Democrats, he said.

Thompson "wants to make sure he has heard from as many people as he can" before making a decision, said his spokesman Mark Corallo.

"He wants to talk about the future of the party and the future of the (conservative) political movement," Corallo said.

Wamp dismisses those who say Thompson is waiting too long to get into the presidential race. "I think the campaign started too early. People are not only going to be tired of politics, they are going to be tired of these people (the other candidates)," he said.

{ } He uses media skills

That Thompson is using the media skills and strategy mastered during his political and entertainment careers can clearly be seen in the weeks after he told Chris Wallace on Fox News that he was "going to leave the door open" to a run.

Thompson's name began appearing in political gossip columns, and most major newspapers have written stories about him.

Thompson again went on Fox last week, to announce that he had been diagnosed with cancer in 2004.

Contact Bill Theobald at [wtheobal@gns.gannett.com](mailto:wtheobal@gns.gannett.com)



## **Exhibit 7**

### **The Politico**

**F Thompson mulling summer decision**

**By Mike Allen**

**May 1, 2007 06 58 AM EST**

Advisers to Fred Thompson have begun exploring a range of staffing options -- including talking to potential campaign managers -- as the actor and former Tennessee senator firms up his plans to enter the Republican presidential contest, according to people involved in the conversations. Thompson has not made a final decision but is on track to be ready to announce his candidacy in June or July, his advisers say. Thompson has already been polling better than some of the announced GOP candidates, and his entry would shake up a field that has left many Republican faithful dissatisfied.

Thompson also has begun inoculating himself against potential attacks from rivals. During a question-and-answer session with House members on April 18, Thompson was asked about his colorful dating history from 1985 to 2002, while he was divorced.

Politico.com is co-host of the Republican presidential debate on May 3rd, and candidates will be answering our readers' favorite questions.

"I was single for a long time, and, yep, I chased a lot of women," Thompson replied, chuckling, according to an attendee who took notes. "And a lot of women chased me. And those that chased me tended to catch me."

The remark drew laughter from men and grins from women, according to witnesses. Said Mark Conallo, a spokesman for Thompson, when asked about his boss's alleged comments: "Fred went up to the Hill to have a serious and open discussion. He answered every question, including the personal ones. The folks that heard his answers were touched by them. I don't think any of the members of Congress or the American people are concerned about the dating habits of a single man."

At the Capitol Hill Club session, most of the 63 House members implored Thompson to run, although some were spies for rival campaigns. During the discussion about his past, Thompson said he had recently spoken to his ex-wife, Sarah, and said she would campaign for him. He also spoke lovingly about his "partner for life," his wife, Jeri, and their two small children. Thompson said his operatives had run across other campaigns doing opposition research on his personal life. "I guess they thought they were going to deter me, and you can see what kind of effect that's had," he said, according to the attendee who took notes.

Thompson, his wife and advisers in Washington and Tennessee also are drawing up plans for a new style of campaign that would rely heavily on technology and his celebrity status to avoid some of the slogging through the snow in Iowa and New Hampshire that is normally required of White House hopefuls.

The advisers say Thompson, who plays District Attorney Arthur Branch on NBC's "Law & Order," is researching ways to use technology -- including the Web, videoconferences and teleconferences --

to harness the enthusiasm for his candidacy among grass-roots bloggers and activists. The campaign also would rely on large events, such as those that have in part supplanted country-store campaigning for some in the Democratic field.

"Well-known candidates can do things a little differently," explained one adviser. "You show up, you're accessible, but you don't have to go to every county seat several times."

Originally, the idea of a late-start campaign for Thompson looked like something of a lark, but the phantom candidacy is accelerating. "The question is: Can he do it the way he wants to do it?" said another person helping plan the potential campaign. "With each passing day, he realizes that the answer is yes."

When asked by the Weekly Standard about his Social Security plan, Thompson gave the teasing response: "I'll roll that out at the appropriate time." This month, HBO is putting significant promotion dollars behind "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee," which features Thompson as President Ulysses Grant, complete with Oval Office scenes. Thompson wins a new straw poll just about every weekend and has a heavy spring speaking schedule.

Thompson disclosed several weeks ago that he suffers from lymphoma, after keeping it secret for three years. His doctor said Thompson is in remission.

Thompson is even mapping out an issues menu heavy on national security, including restraining nuclear proliferation. He plans to say that fixing Social Security and Medicare for the baby boomers is a more urgent problem than global warming, and he plans to speak frankly about the need for sacrifice in order to fix those programs.

On Friday, he'll have his political coming out (but won't announce) at the annual dinner of the Lincoln Club of Orange County, Calif., a booking in the heart of Reagan country that declared GOP presidential aspirants sought aggressively.

So just how practical is a low-impact presidential campaign? Thompson's floundering campaign for Senate in Tennessee took off after he got his red pickup truck, and now he wants to bring a similar dash of showmanship to the '08 race. "Because of his name ID, he doesn't have to go diner to diner and church to church," said one adviser.

On the day Thompson revealed he has cancer, he hinted at an unorthodox blueprint when he said that he thinks it's possible to join the field without abandoning his family.

"Going on the road for months at a time, and for all practical purposes, just checking [in] every once in a while, I wouldn't do that," he told Fox's Neil Cavuto. "I don't think it has to be done that way. I know people will expect that of everyone -- to run frenetically around for years. And I don't do frenetic very well."

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**Exhibit 8**

***Interview With Fred Thompson Fox News Network May 1, 2007 Tuesday***

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Fox News Network**

**SHOW: FOX HANNITY & CO 9 00 PM EST**

**May 1, 2007 Tuesday**

**TRANSCRIPT: 050101cb 253**

**SECTION: NEWS, Domestic**

**LENGTH: 2669 words**

**HEADLINE: Interview With Fred Thompson**

**BYLINE: Sean Hannity, Alan Colmes**

**GUESTS: Fred Thompson**

**BODY:**

**SEAN HANNITY, CO-HOST** And welcome to "Hannity & Colmes " Thank you for being with us I'm Sean Hannity

**Coming up tonight, the president vetoes the Democrats' retreat from Iraq Dick Morris will be here with analysis**

**ALAN COLMES, CO-HOST** And then you heard Imus' producer call Al Sharpton a terrorist right here on "Hannity & Colmes " Tonight, Al Sharpton is here to respond, and it's going to get very lively

**HANNITY** First, our top story tonight His polling numbers are impressive He has become one of the most talked-about conservatives in the race for the White House in '08, and he hasn't even announced he's running Now, a short time ago, I spoke exclusively with former Senator Fred Thompson about his potential run for the White House

**(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)**

**HANNITY** Here's the headline today in one of the newspapers "Opponents Want Dirt on

HANNITY Does it worry you to see the presidency under such fire? In other words, the country's so divided, that the president is called all these names on a regular basis? I've got to think, you know, considering you want that position, that that's something in the back of your head that you -- you know, with that job, comes a lot of scrutiny and a lot of criticism and could be a pretty lonely position up there

THOMPSON Well, sure, sure But it naturally is in the back of your head, but that's where you ought to keep it I mean, if that's your primary motivation, to avoid criticism, and get a real good sleep every single night, then you ought to find another line of work, because it's not going to come with that

But contrast that to what we're talking about here Contrast that with the opportunity to do something about it here, and to start afresh, and to be able to go to the American people and say, "Look, we're in a different time now We're in a different era We're faced with things we've never been faced with before, but we can do the things that we've always done before in times of crisis and come out of this one, too "

But we've got to do things better We've got to be more honest with ourselves about our mistakes, and then we'll hitch up our britches and do what we've always done, and that is come out on the other end together

You know, we won the Cold War with Democrats and Republicans together That's the way we're going to have to operate in the future, I think, and with regard to the challenges that we face And, hopefully, once we get on down the road a little bit, cooler heads will prevail, and maybe some new leadership in the Congress, and we can do a better job

HANNITY The biggest battle we have is this war on terror, this battle in Iraq We have a really deep divide in the country Senator Reid says the war is lost We still have to finish the job there Where do you stand in general on the war on terror and, more specifically, in Iraq, and on the divide surrounding Iraq?

THOMPSON Well, let's talk about Senator Reid for a moment Right before I came over here, I was sitting outside, getting a bite to eat, before we did our interview A young woman came up and asked if she could sit down and talk to me a minute Her name was Koeller (ph) She worked over at Morgan Stanley, but she had gone to West Point, and she had been a captain in the Army, and she was at the DMZ in South Korea at the time of 9/11

I asked her what she thought about this She said, "How in the world can anyone, any one of our leaders, declare war, declare that the war has been lost when we've got troops in the field? My friends are over there in the field I know what they think about this "

And, of course, it's just like all other Americans think The very idea that they would do this and undercut our efforts over there is unprecedented And it's not only unprecedented, it's awful politics

We should not be fearful of these people politically We just need to concentrate on what's right

What is right? We need to take advantage of any opportunity we've got down there. I've got a lot of faith in Petraeus. I knew him when he was at Fort Campbell when I was in the Senate. He tells me we've got a shot? We've got to take that shot.

We also have to keep in mind, though, there's going to be a day after Iraq. And whether we leave there under our own terms or not, it's still going to be a very dangerous world. If we leave there under bad circumstances, we're going to have a haven down there for terrorists. The whole area, I'm afraid, will become nuclearized.

The Sunni countries are looking at what Iran is doing. And if we can't help with stability in that part of the world, they're going to help themselves, and they're going to go nuclear, in terms of weaponry and the ability to counteract what Iran's doing. The whole region is up for grabs.

HANNITY And how do we deal with that? We've got the short-term problem of Harry Reid. We've got the political problem. Harry Reid says we lost. We've got to win in Iraq. Then you have the possibility of the two things you mentioned earlier. You combine Islamic fanaticism and nuclear technology, and you've got a guy, Ahmadinejad, to add to the equation that wants to wipe Israel off the map. You're president of the United States, that's a big burden to have on your shoulders.

THOMPSON Of course it is, but it's the number-one challenge of this century and will be for a long time. And all these other things, all these other issues are important at different levels. This overwhelms everything else.

And our nation has to have a strong deterrent. Some of these terrorists might or might not be able to be traced back. But these countries that are supplying them should know we have the ability to do a pretty doggone good job of tracing their activities back. Strong deterrent, much better intelligence.

Then we've got to enforce our borders. We have Al Qaeda out there, we know, trying to get nuclear weapons. We have 40 countries that have fissile material that a lot of it -- that could make a bomb. A lot of it goes unguarded. We have porous ports and borders. Now, it doesn't take a genius to put all that together and see what kind of a challenge this country has.

HANNITY You came out publicly. You disclosed you had lymphoma. What's the status of that? How tough is that? And how big is that of a consideration for you, as you make this decision?

THOMPSON Personally, it's a total non-factor. My family is more important to me and my own health is more important to me than any political campaign, I assure you, even this one. For me, it's a non-factor, because that's what my doctors have told me, that it's one of those things that you can continue on with for years and it's totally manageable.

I've never had an hour of symptoms, either from the disease or treatment, than I had when I took some treatment. So I go on about my business, but I thought it was important to lay it out for the American people, because they deserve to know that. Other politicians, of course, have had similar problems. But mine was undisclosed. I didn't try to keep it secret, necessarily. I'm just a

private person, to the extent that I can be

(END VIDEOTAPE)

**HANNITY** All right, more of my exclusive interview with Senator Fred Thompson coming up after the break

And still to come tonight, President Bush vetoes the Iraq war spending bill after Democrats refuse to remove a deadline for troop withdrawal Dick Morris will be here with analysis, as Congress goes back to the drawing board

And Reverend Al, with reaction from our big debate at the National Action Network Conference That's the one I won

And also, Elizabeth and Rosie get into a heated battle over the Iraq war debate, all coming up, straight ahead

**COLMES** We now continue with Sean's exclusive interview with former Senator Fred Thompson

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

**HANNITY** Should you become the Republican nominee for president, although the polls are shifting -- it's not going to be the coronation, perhaps, that Hillary Clinton thought it was going to be -- but you may very well find yourself up against Hillary Clinton What do you think of her? What do you think of Barack Obama?

**THOMPSON** Sean, I really want to take, again, the luxury of not getting into that right now

**HANNITY** Not even a little shot?

(LAUGHTER)

I'm kidding

**THOMPSON** Don't tempt me No, I'm going to -- you know, there is, what, eight months to the first primary?

**HANNITY** It's all over February 5th, pretty much

**THOMPSON** Well, yes, but, look, that's still a long time If you can't get your message out there and deal with these things, then I think

**HANNITY** Well, let's deal with the people that -- your immediate competition You talked about Senator McCain Rudy Giuliani is tops in most of the polls we read now, although you're doing well for somebody that's not in the race I'm sure you're probably following some of these

THOMPSON You know, I'd be more likely to talk about the Democrats than I would the Republicans

HANNITY Oh, so you're striking me out on that one?

THOMPSON Let me try to be responsive to your question As far as the Democrats, they are adhering, to the extent they can, to the most left- wing element of their base You know, MoveOn.org and those folks are running the Democratic Party And they're taking extremist positions and doing extremist things Harry Reid is doing things that I think the American people are going to reject

They're as near to investing in defeat of their own country as anything I've ever seen And I don't think the American people will forgive them for that

So they're going through that exercise And let's just let them go Let's just give them a little rope and see what they do Our name-calling and carping on them right now is kind of wasted effort, as far as I'm concerned

HANNITY Let me focus on what you just said They're as close to investing in defeat?

THOMPSON Yes

HANNITY That's a pretty severe charge But, I mean, if you say we lost in Iraq

THOMPSON Well, when you say here is the funding, but I just want you to know you've already lost, here is the life raft, but you're going to drown, then you sit back, as a politician, as they are, where is the psychology of that? Where is your mind? Where is your heart, as you see things go on?

I know that they don't want to see our young people come to bad end in their heart of hearts, but look at the position that they're putting themselves in When you get out there in the middle of this -- and we're trying, it might be a last-ditch effort, to turn this thing around so we can have some stability to give those people a shot down there before we leave, and announcing -- what use is that? What good is that? What purpose is that? Except, as they say, later on, we're going to pick up Senate seats because of this My goodness I mean, where have we come to in this country?

HANNITY Do you think there has to be a certain destiny to becoming president of the United States? I mean, in other words, you could put yourself in the arena You could put yourself out there You build up your resume to get to the point where you could even consider this You've been a senator We know your long career But does it have to be a certain sense of that this was meant to be for you? Do you feel that?

THOMPSON Sean, that sounds a little bit for more than I'd like to say, further than I'd like to go But I know what you're saying

**Thompson Combing Public Records Looking for Dirt "**

**FRED THOMPSON, ACTOR AND FORMER SENATOR** Well, that's the advantage of having lived the perfect life, Sean, when you read things like that Now, that's part of the deal anymore, as you know I thought it may have been a little early I thought it might have come from the Democrats instead of Republicans But that's the way it is nowadays I mean, we're already accustomed to that

Somebody called up my wife a while back, said it was one of her old boyfriends, and said that he had something on her from when she was 16 years old Of course, it wasn't any old boyfriend But, anyway, told a campaign official of ours who's helping us out, a helper, and said, "Thompson couldn't run because of this " And if they're doing that with regard to her, I can only imagine what they're going to do as far as I'm concerned

But, you know, it's kind of like gnats swarming around the war horse, you know? They aggravate you sometimes, but in the end not that important

**HANNITY** That's your attitude about it, in the end?

**THOMPSON** Yes

**HANNITY** They specifically were going after public records, but all of the stuff Are you prepared for that? I mean, obviously, this is the day and age of YouTube, and cell phones, and everyone has got cameras and tapes, and gotcha Do you think about that, as you go through this?

**THOMPSON** Well, sure, sure You know that, and you live with that, and that's what it's come to That's why Americans are sick to death of politics and most politicians, because that's what we do to each other That's what we do with our friends Now you can imagine what it's going to be like in the general election

**HANNITY** How do you know these are Republicans?

**THOMPSON** But you don't let that dissuade you Well, I could be wrong I mean, I don't flatter myself enough to think that the Democrats right now are focusing in on me If I'm wrong about, then I'm highly flattered But that can't deter you

**HANNITY** Bring us inside the Thompson mind, in terms of what's going on inside of your mind, as you make this decision about whether or not you want to get in this race and run for president What are you thinking about?

**THOMPSON** Well, obviously, there's some practical things, some contractual things that I'm doing There's some family considerations You don't change on a dime You think you're going this direction with your family, and your life, and you're going another direction You take some time I'm taking this time I'm talking to some of the smartest people, I think, in the country, about some things that are very important to me



I put it a different way Maybe it's the same sort of thing, that, in my case, I think the man has to meet the times I'm not sure that I was ready for this before I'm not sure -- well, I know the times were not the way they are now

But there's something going on out there, and it's something different I think it has to do with people's perception of all things Washington, for one thing I think people are concerned about whether or not this greatest nation maybe is beginning to go like all the rest and start in decline a little bit

There's been a tremendous response to me Maybe it's because of what I represent, I like to think that it is Maybe it's because I can look people in the eye and tell them what I'm thinking, and they know that, at least, that's what I'm thinking, whether they agree with me or not

Certain doors have opened to me, from time to time in my life I've not beaten down many of them, but oftentimes I walk through, and they've always worked out well People say, is there the fire in the belly? I'm kind of a slow-moving, slow-talking kind of guy, a lot of times I enjoy life, and I enjoy a good laugh

The only two elections I've ever run, I've won And I won back home with greater margins than anybody else in the history -- greater numbers than anybody else in the history of Tennessee So I've been able to sense, I think, when the time was right And I wouldn't call that destiny That may be a little heavy But I do sense that there's something different and special going on out in the country right now, and I may be able to answer that call

HANNITY Senator, thank you for being with us Good to see you

THOMPSON Thank you Appreciate it

HANNITY Thank you very much

(END VIDEOTAPE)

COLMES And coming up, Joe Biden takes the bull by the horns and issues a direct challenge to President Bush We'll play you the unbelievable tape

And last week, we brought you the first exclusive interview with Don Imus' producer, Bernie McGuirk And tonight, the hard-up Al Sharpton responds You don't want to miss that, coming up on "Hannity & Colmes "

**Exhibit 9**

***THOMPSON REFUSES TO RUSH DECISION St Petersburg Times (Florida) May 11, 2007  
Friday***

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St Petersburg Times (Florida)**

**May 11, 2007 Friday  
4 State / Suncoast Edition**

**SECTION: LOCAL & STATE, Pg 3B**

**LENGTH: 305 words**

**HEADLINE: THOMPSON REFUSES TO RUSH DECISION**

**BYLINE: BILL VARIAN, Times Staff Writer**

**DATeline: TAMPA**

**BODY:**

**Fred Thompson says he's in no hurry to decide whether to run for president, even as his potential opponents traverse the country raising millions in campaign money**

**But he acknowledged that, with Florida's earlier Jan 29 primary, the Sunshine State will play a more critical role than ever in determining who wins the Republican ticket**

**The former Tennessee senator, who now plays a prosecutor on television's Law & Order, was in Tampa Thursday night addressing the Hillsborough County Bar Association Foundation in an event that was closed to reporters. It had been scheduled before there was public talk of a presidential bid**

**He spoke briefly to a trio of reporters before the event**

**Thompson said he believes he has plenty of time to get his message out if he runs**

**"I think campaigns are too long," he said. "You don't need to be running for years and raising millions and millions of dollars."**

**Thompson said he will base his decision not on the other candidates, but on whether he thinks he is man for the job**

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These times require that the country move in a "different and better" direction, he said. The federal government is dysfunctional, marked by squabbling and in need of someone who can get people behind him.

Moreover, he said government agencies don't work together, their computers can't share information, critical audits point out alarming shortcomings, borders aren't being adequately patrolled, port cargo isn't getting inspected and entitlement programs face enormous looming debt.

Asked about creating a catastrophic fund to buffer property owners from rising insurance costs, Thompson said, "That's Florida's issue." He said he hasn't looked into it, but might if he decides to run for president.

Times researcher John Martin contributed to this report. Bill Varian can be reached at (813) 226-3387 or [varian@nytimes.com](mailto:varian@nytimes.com).

**GRAPHIC: PHOTO, Associated Press** Actor and former U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson says campaigns are getting too long and costly.

## **Exhibit 10**

**Many Signs Point to Thompson Candidacy**  
**May 23 03 30 AM US/Eastern**  
**By LIZ SIDOTI**  
**Associated Press Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) - There was a time when Fred Thompson suggested that he couldn't see himself running for office again. "For me, the George Washington example of serving eight years and riding out of town on a horse and never returning has great appeal," the Tennessee Republican said in the twilight of his eight-year Senate career. Now, five years later, he is a well-known TV actor who finds himself on the verge of a real-life presidential bid, seemingly recruited by activists hungry for someone to fill what they see as a conservative void among the top-tier GOP hopefuls. Numerous signs point to a Thompson candidacy, and a summertime announcement is widely expected, although people close to him caution that he has not made a final decision about running. Never mind that he basically already is.

Thompson is hiring staff, speaking to conservative groups, writing online columns on topics of the day and staking out positions on issues like the Senate immigration overhaul. He also is testing his pitch on the Internet.

"It's important to the future of this country that (Republicans) have somebody that can win in November," Thompson said in a recent online interview. "People are looking for somebody who can talk straight to them. That's what I hope I bring to bear."

His expected entrance into the already crowded GOP field could dramatically shake up the wide-open race but it's unclear who among the strongest contenders, Rudy Giuliani, John McCain and Mitt Romney, would be affected the most.

Not yet a full-fledged candidate, Thompson has found himself competitive with them in national popularity polls. That's likely due in part to his acting role as district attorney Arthur Branch on NBC's popular drama "Law & Order."

Conservatives who make up a big part of the GOP base have found fault with Giuliani, McCain and Romney for varying reasons and for months now have been searching for a candidate to embrace. Thompson's backers bill him as the perfect person—the one truly conservative candidate in the mold of Ronald Reagan who can beat the Democratic nominee in November 2008. Rep. Zach Wamp of Tennessee called Thompson "naturally conservative with a down-home sense of humor and a confidence about who he is."

In the Senate, Thompson was considered a reliably conservative vote. The American Conservative Union gave him a lifetime rating of 86 out of 100. He fiercely backed the Iraq war, worked to limit the federal government's role, supported banning a late-term abortion procedure, and voted for President Bush's tax cuts.

But he sometimes took paths that didn't necessarily sit well with conservatives, including advocating for campaign finance reform. He also was one of four senators who backed underdog McCain in 2000 over George W. Bush, the establishment candidate. Social issues, important to the party's right flank, also typically weren't at the top of his agenda.

Yet, some may be willing to look past those issues.

"There are plenty of people standing on the sidelines waiting for Thompson to get in the race, and if

he doesn't, they're going to stay on the sidelines," said Greg Carson, the GOP chairman in New Hampshire's Rockingham County

Added Robin Malmberg, his counterpart in Henry County, Iowa "Personally, I'm still waiting for the one that just tells it like it is So my curiosity is piqued with Thompson "

The Thompson presidential talk started early this year with a Tennessee-based draft effort His initial flirtation with the idea quickly became a calculated march First, he announced he is in remission from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a form of cancer Then, he met with lawmakers on Capitol Hill and gave speeches to conservative organizations Now, he's building a campaign organization, tapping former Reagan and Bush aides for senior posts

Late to the game by months, Thompson faces several challenges, not the least of which would be turning strong buzz on the Internet and some support in Washington into actual votes in GOP primary contests

"Fred has the most spontaneous support than anyone in the last 40 years," said an undeterred Sen Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn

Perhaps

But he still lags the declared candidates in fundraising by multimillions and he also will have to counter the perception, in Washington at least, that he doesn't have the passion to run for president His backers dispute that notion and say money won't be a problem given Thompson's Hollywood ties and Tennessee network

Then there are Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and other early primary voting states, where Thompson's rivals have spent months building campaign organizations and courting grass-roots supporters

Given that disparity, Thompson has indicated that he would not run a traditional campaign Already, much of his recent activity has been on the Internet, an indication of the direction he may be headed

Last week, he went online to put the smack down on lefty Michael Moore after the two sparred over the producer's movie "Sicko," which depicts Sept 11 survivors seeking medical care in Cuba

In an online video, Thompson puffed on a cigar as he sat in a leather desk chair and reminded Moore that the Cuban government once put a documentary filmmaker in a mental institution

"Mental institution, Michael Might be something you ought to think about," Thompson says—in what could be called the first ad of his would-be campaign

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**Exhibit 11**

**Chattanooga Times Free Press (Tennessee)**

***Lawmakers line up for Thompson Chattanooga Times Free Press (Tennessee) May 25, 2007  
Friday***

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Chattanooga Times Free Press (Tennessee)**

**May 25, 2007 Friday**

**SECTION: NORTH GEORGIA, Pg 0**

**LENGTH: 909 words**

**HEADLINE: Lawmakers line up for Thompson**

**BYLINE: Matt Wilson, Staff Writer**

**BODY:**

**A group of 36 Republican Georgia legislators, along with several former lawmakers and local officials, is seeking to help "draft" former U S Sen Fred Thompson, R-Tenn , into a run for the Oval Office next year**

**"We've got good people that are out there running, but none of them are perfect," said state Sen Eric Johnson, R-Savannah, who is leading the "Draft Fred" movement in Georgia "Sen Thompson's got a great record "**

**Sen Johnson, who used the term "Fredheads" to describe Mr Thompson's supporters, said the former senator's communication skills and "pro-life, pro-gun, anti-tax record" are his main selling points**

**"He has the ability to look America in the eye, not blink, and tell us where he wants to go," he said**

**Several legislators from Northwest Georgia have signed on in support of Mr Thompson, who has not yet said he will be a candidate One of those legislators is Rep Ron Forster, R-Ringgold**

**"He's the best candidate that's not even in the race yet," he said**

**Rep Forster said he was "disappointed" with the Republican candidates who have entered the**

race so far

State Sen Preston Smith, R-Rome, also has endorsed Mr Thompson

"I think Thompson probably has the best chance of winning," Sen Smith said "To me, it was sort of an electability issue "

He said that Republican candidates are probably "going to have a tough time" in 2008 He said Mr Thompson embodies the "unique type of candidate" who can win in spite of the atmosphere in Washington that led to Democrats retaking Congress last year

Sen Johnson said all the lawmakers who signed on as Fredheads will support Mr Thompson if he runs, but they also have second choices if he decides to stay out of the race

Rep Forster said his second choice was a simple one

"Anybody but the Democratic candidate," he said

In the General Assembly, 140 of the 234 members are Republicans

As of Thursday, 421 other Georgians had signed an online petition to persuade Mr Thompson to seek the GOP nomination

Mark Corallo, a spokesman for Mr Thompson, said the former senator and actor is "absolutely grateful for the support" from a group that backs him with "no prompting, no help, no contact "

"It certainly gives him more to think about when he makes his final considerations," he said

But Mr Corallo said there are several other factors to consider, such as family issues and timing

"He has to make sure that the man meets the times," he said

Charles Bullock, a professor of political science at the University of Georgia, said the Draft Fred movement could only be a boon to Mr Thompson's campaign if he decides to run

"If Thompson harbors any presidential ambitions, nothing could be better than for Republican leaders around the country to call on him to come forth and save the party," he said

If the movement becomes popular among Republicans, it could go a long way toward helping Mr Thompson catch up with his opponents in fundraising, Dr Bullock said

The Fredheads are the largest group of lawmakers in Georgia who have yet endorsed a candidate

Other Georgia Republicans have shown enthusiasm for a Thompson campaign Mr Thompson handily won a straw poll at last week's state Republican convention, nearly tripling the percentage of the vote of his nearest opponent, former U S House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-

**Ga**

**Mr Gingrich also has not announced his candidacy**

**About two dozen Democrats in the General Assembly are backing U S Sen Barack Obama, D-Ill , including Senate Minority Whip David Adelman, D-Decatur**

**House Speaker Glenn Richardson, R-Hiram, and five other state legislators announced Thursday their support for former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani's bid for the GOP nomination**

**"Rudy has demonstrated the kind of strong leadership we need in the White House and has a record of proven results that Georgians respect," Rep Richardson said**

**State Sen Jeff Mullis, R-Chickamauga, announced in March that he had joined the Georgia campaign team of U S Sen John McCain, R-Ariz**

**Likewise, House Speaker Pro Tem Mark Burkhalter, R-Duluth, has signed on as the Georgia chairman of former Massachusetts Gov Mitt Romney's campaign**

**Former Gov Roy Barnes has endorsed former U S Sen John Edwards, D-N C**

**U S Sen Hillary Clinton, D-N Y , has not yet announced her campaign's Georgia endorsements**

**E-mail Matt Wilson at [mwilson@timesfreepress.com](mailto:mwilson@timesfreepress.com)**

#### **ON THE WEB**

**<http://www.ga4fred.org>**

**Here are the Georgia legislators aboard the state's "Draft Fred" effort**

#### **Senators**

**Sen Don Thomas, Dalton**

**Sen Preston Smith, Rome**

**Sen Eric Johnson, Savannah**

**Sen Tommie Williams, Lyons**

**Sen Chip Rogers, Woodstock**

**Sen David Shafer, Duluth**

**Sen Jack Murphy, Chapman**



Sen John Douglas, Social Circle

Sen Cecil Staton, Macon

Sen Greg Goggans, Douglas

Sen Lee Hawkins, Gainesville

Sen Bill Heath, Bremen

Sen Bill Hamrick, Carrollton

Sen Jeff Chapman, Brunswick

**Representatives**

Rep Ron Forster, Ringgold

Rep Jay Neal, LaFayette

Rep Tom Dickson, Cohutta

Rep John Meadows, Calhoun

Rep Tom Graves, Ranger

Rep Earl Ehrhart, Powder Springs

Rep Ron Stephens, Savannah

Rep Earl "Buddy" Carter, Pooler

Rep Burke Day, Tybee Island

Rep Jim Cole, Forsyth

Rep Doug Collins, Gainesville

Rep James Mills, Gainesville

Rep Mark Butler, Carrollton

Rep Clay Cox, Lilburn

Rep Sean Jerguson, Canton

Rep Calvin Hill, Canton

Rep Doug Holt, Social Circle

Rep Tom Knox, Cumming

Rep Mark Hamilton, Cumming

Rep John Heard, Lawrenceville

Rep Donna Sheldon, Dacula

Rep Melvin Everson, Snellville

Source Georgians for Fred Thompson

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**Exhibit 12**

***The Sign Of the Red Truck Newsweek May 28, 2007***

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Newsweek**

**May 28, 2007  
U S Edition**

**SECTION: PERISCOPE, POLITICS 2008, Pg 10**

**LENGTH: 307 words**

**HEADLINE: The Sign Of the Red Truck**

**BYLINE: Holly Bailey**

**BODY:**

Folks in Franklin, Tenn , think they'll know when Fred Thompson decides to run for president. Parked in Thompson's mother's driveway is the rusting red Chevy pickup that the former senator turned actor drove all over the state during his two U S Senate campaigns. He drove the truck to Washington in 1994 after he was elected to fill an unexpired term and used it as a populist stunt again during his re-election campaign, often giving speeches from the lowered tailgate. "People are watching that truck like hawks," says the Southern Baptist Convention's Richard Land, who also lives in Franklin. "Nobody can imagine he won't use it if he runs."

Thompson isn't the only one under surveillance. Politics junkies and rival campaigns have been looking for signs among other potential candidates. Pundits are watching Al Gore's waistline under the theory that the former veep will slim down if he decides to seek the Democratic nod. Will Michael Bloomberg run? Contact with Ross Perot and his advisers might be a sign that the New York City mayor will mount a third-party run for the White House. Others are watching how often Chuck Hagel talks to Bloomberg, after the Nebraska senator hinted that he's talked to the mayor about a joint ticket. Also under close watch: Newt Gingrich's continued efforts to make nice with social conservatives in his party, who have problems with his string of failed marriages and admission of adultery.

Thompson, who now lives in Virginia, hasn't driven his pickup in several years. The paint is peeling and its U S Senate license plates expired back in 2002. Mark Corallo, a spokesman, says

Thompson "just hasn't had the heart to sell her " "I don't know if the truck will be resurrected," he told NEWSWEEK, adding that Thompson has made no decision about 2008 In other words, he's still idling in the driveway

**GRAPHIC: Driver's Seat** Thompson in the trademark pickup

**Exhibit 13**

***Sources Thompson to take big step toward White House run CNN com May 30, 2007  
Wednesday 2 46 PM EST***

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<http://www.cnn.com/http://www.cnn.com/>  
CNN com**

**May 30, 2007 Wednesday 2 46 PM EST**

**SECTION: POLITICS**

**LENGTH: 378 words**

**HEADLINE: Sources Thompson to take big step toward White House run**

**DATeline: WASHINGTON**

**BODY:**

**Former U S Sen Fred Thompson will take a major step toward a 2008 run for the White House by "testing the waters" -- beginning to raise money and hire campaign staff as early as Friday, several sources close to Thompson told CNN**

**While the former senator from Tennessee is not an official candidate for president, he is acknowledging interest in the race for the Republican nomination**

**Thompson is not required to file paperwork with the Federal Election Commission at this stage, but he would have to account for his actions during this initial phase should he decide to become a full-fledged candidate at a later date**

**"He is entering the 'testing the waters' phase," said one of the sources close to Thompson "It allows the senator to go out and gauge support "**

**Thompson, 64, held a conference call Tuesday night with more than 100 supporters and received financial commitments from "big Republican donors," the source said**

**Thompson has been in contact with "a lot of Reagan and Bush 41 [George H W Bush]-types who are supportive" of his candidacy, another source with knowledge of Thompson's thinking said**

2 9 0 4 4 2 3 0 1 1 0  
This source noted that Thompson likely will make appearances in some of the early primary and caucus states such as Iowa and New Hampshire before an official announcement

"That announcement could come as early as the first week in July," the source close to Thompson said "However, that is if he gets in "

A CNN/Opinion Research Corp poll conducted May 4-6 placed Thompson third among GOP candidates with 13 percent of the vote Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani had the most support with 25 percent, two percentage points ahead of Sen John McCain's 23 percent Former Massachusetts Gov Mitt Romney was fourth with 10 percent

The same poll of registered Republican voters found 20 percent were very satisfied with the field of GOP candidates and 26 percent were not satisfied Fifty percent said they were somewhat satisfied

Thompson announced earlier this year that he was diagnosed with lymphoma in 2004, but one of his physicians said that the disease is in remission

Thompson was elected to the Senate in 1994 to fill the unexpired term of then-Vice President Al Gore and retired in 2003 to resume an acting career He now lives in McLean, Virginia

**Exhibit 14**

***Fred Thompson moves ahead with likely presidential candidacy The Associated Press State & Local Wire May 30, 2007 Wednesday 10 24 PM GMT***

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire**

**May 30, 2007 Wednesday 10 24 PM GMT**

**SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL**

**LENGTH: 1118 words**

**HEADLINE: Fred Thompson moves ahead with likely presidential candidacy**

**BYLINE: By LIZ SIDOTI, Associated Press Writer**

**DATELINE: WASHINGTON**

**BODY:**

**It's hardly a stretch to imagine Fred Thompson as president. After all, he's played the role in movies, his imposing 6-foot-5 stature and Southern-tinged commanding voice creating the illusion.**

**"He comes from central casting," says Ted Malloch of Palm Beach, Fla., a Thompson backer. "He's not Ronald Reagan, but he's Reaganesque."**

**That's exactly what the former Tennessee Republican senator and actor on NBC's "Law & Order" is casting himself as for his latest role.**

**Only this time, the stage is real life.**

**The 64-year-old is taking significant steps toward an expected summer entry into the crowded but extraordinarily unsettled Republican presidential race, and his would-be candidacy could attract restless conservatives who have not fully embraced the leading GOP contenders.**

**Thompson would bring a right-leaning Senate voting record with a few digressions from GOP orthodoxy and a dash of Hollywood star power given his many movie roles and TV stint as the gruff district attorney on NBC's popular crime drama.**

**Among his many characters, he played President Ulysses S. Grant in this year's made-for-TV**

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movie "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee," and the fictional President Charles Ross in the 2005 film "Last Best Chance "

A Thompson bid also could make the contest to succeed President Bush even more topsy turvy, all three top-tier candidates Rudy Giuliani, John McCain and Mitt Romney could lose some measure of support and the seven underdogs could become even more irrelevant

Several Republicans with knowledge of his plans say Thompson will make his first formal campaign move in the coming days, establishing an official organization to weigh a White House bid while launching a major fundraising drive on Monday

Speaking on condition of anonymity because the timeline is not public, these officials said Thompson may visit early primary states in late June and could officially enter the race as early as the first week in July

"Senator Thompson is still seriously considering getting into the presidential contest and he is doing everything he has to do to make that final decision," said Mark Corallo, a Thompson spokesman "Stay tuned "

On Thompson's schedule in the coming weeks a speech to Virginia Republicans in Richmond on Saturday and an appearance with Jay Leno on "The Tonight Show" on June 12 One official said an overseas trip also may be in the works

For months, Thompson has openly flirted with a candidacy as a Tennessee-based effort sought to draft him into the race He made several high-profile moves that pointed to a bid, not the least of which was disclosing that he is in remission after being diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma, a form of cancer

His popularity in national polls spiked to double digits early in the year, but while he still fares well in surveys, his numbers have fallen following what some Republicans considered a subpar speech in early May in California That's prompted some rumblings in GOP circles that Thompson may have missed his opportunity to make a splash in the race

Undaunted, Thompson has been portraying himself as a straight-talking conservative in the mold of former President Reagan in speeches and on the Internet

During his 1994-2002 Senate tenure, he was considered a reliably conservative vote

He worked to limit the role of the federal government and backed a ban on a late-term abortion procedure He voted in favor of Bush's tax cuts, oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, eliminating money for the National Endowment for the Arts and a constitutional amendment to ban flag desecration And, he voted against requiring criminal background checks for purchases at gun shows

But he sometimes took paths that didn't necessarily sit well with conservatives, including advocating for campaign finance reform While he voted to oust President Clinton from office,



he also was one of 10 Republican senators who voted against one of the two impeachment charges

Social issues, important to the party's right, also typically weren't at the top of his agenda. He was known less as a legislator and more as an investigator, leading the committee that examined former President Clinton's fundraising in 1996. Yet, he established a reputation as a less-than-hard worker. The Democratic National Committee issued a research document Wednesday detailing Thompson's major legislative accomplishments. Save for the title and a DNC disclaimer, it was blank.

Thompson was one of the few senators who backed underdog McCain in 2000 over George W. Bush, the establishment candidate. This time around, Thompson would be opposing McCain and could hurt his friend's own shot at the White House. The two have similar Senate records but Thompson could be seen as a fresher face to McCain, who is well-known to GOP voters.

Romney, who is trying to position himself to the right of the major candidates, also could see his support fall among conservatives concerned about his shifts on issues.

Campaigning in Iowa, Romney said he welcomed a Thompson entry. "I think he'll make the race more interesting. He's got good ideas and after all, he does put bad people in jail every week on 'Law & Order,'" he said.

Giuliani could be hindered as well if Thompson grabs the attention of Republicans uneasy with the former New York City mayor's support for gay and abortion rights.

Campaigning in California, Giuliani said he would welcome Thompson, but argued that he was the stronger candidate based on his record of cutting taxes and combatting terrorism as well as his ability to win a general election.

Ticking off states that went Democratic in 2004, such as California and New York, Giuliani said, "Those are all states Republicans gave away in the past and the Democrats took for granted. It doesn't mean I'll win all of them, but if I win my fair share of them, then I'll get elected."

Over the next few days, Thompson plans to form a "testing the waters" committee called "Friends of Fred Thompson," which will allow him to begin raising money, hire staff and gauge support without officially committing to a White House bid.

He could significantly dampen the fundraising ability of his potential GOP rivals during the homestretch of the second quarter financial reporting period.

"It's going to cause everybody to have second thoughts about writing a check," said Scott Reed, a Republican strategist who is unaligned in the race.

Thompson spoke on a conference call Wednesday to several dozen people who officials called "First Day Founders" and said committed to raising money for him. Participants said they were asked to raise \$46,000 apiece, the \$2,300 maximum from 10 couples or 20 people.

Officials cautioned that Thompson has made no final decision

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**Exhibit 15**

***Fred Thompson takes next step toward presidential race The Associated Press State & Local Wire May 30, 2007 Wednesday 8 20 PM GMT***

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire**

**May 30, 2007 Wednesday 8 20 PM GMT**

**SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL**

**LENGTH: 995 words**

**HEADLINE: Fred Thompson takes next step toward presidential race**

**BYLINE: By LIZ SIDOTI, Associated Press Writer**

**DATELINE: WASHINGTON**

**BODY:**

Republican Fred Thompson, a former Tennessee senator and "Law & Order" actor, is methodically moving ahead with a likely presidential bid, several officials with knowledge of the plans said Wednesday

An all-but-declared candidate for months, Thompson will establish an official organization in the coming days to weigh a White House bid while launching a major fundraising drive next week. The 64-year-old Southerner would bring an overwhelmingly conservative record with a few digressions from GOP orthodoxy to a crowded Republican field.

Thompson, best known as the gruff district attorney on NBC's drama "Law & Order" and a character actor in scores of movies, also would add star power to the presidential race.

The current field headed by Rudy Giuliani, John McCain and Mitt Romney has left some GOP voters clamoring for someone else, and recent polls show Thompson faring well despite his not-yet-announced status.

Thompson may visit early primary states in late June and could officially enter the race as early as the first week in July, according to the officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the plans were not public.

Thompson's candidacy could hurt Romney, who is trying to position himself to the right of the major candidates, or pull support from McCain. Thompson and McCain have had similar records in the Senate, and Thompson could be seen as a fresher face. He was one of a handful of senators who backed McCain in 2000 over George W. Bush.

Giuliani could be hindered as well if Thompson grabs the attention of Republicans who are looking for a candidate to beat Democrats in the fall but are uneasy with the former New York City mayor's support for gay and abortion rights.

Campaigning in California, Giuliani said he would welcome Thompson's entry into the race, but argued that he was the stronger candidate based on his record as mayor in cutting taxes and combatting terrorism as well as his ability to win a general election.

Ticking off states that went Democratic in 2004, such as California and New York, Giuliani said, "Those are all states Republicans gave away in the past and the Democrats took for granted. It doesn't mean I'll win all of them, but if I win my fair share of them, then I'll get elected."

In moving to set up a political organization at the start of June, Thompson could significantly dampen the fundraising ability of his potential Republican rivals during the homestretch of the second quarter financial reporting period.

"Thompson's timing squashes the other candidates' ability to finish out a strong quarter," said Scott Reed, a Republican strategist who is unaligned in the race. "It's going to cause everybody to have second thoughts about writing a check."

A summertime announcement has been widely expected and numerous signs have pointed to a Thompson candidacy, including his disclosure in April that he had been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a form of cancer, but is in remission.

"Senator Thompson is still seriously considering getting into the presidential contest and he is doing everything he has to do to make that final decision," said Mark Corallo, a Thompson spokesman. "Stay tuned."

Thompson has been casting himself as a straight-talking conservative in the mold of former President Reagan even though he took some positions that upset the base as a senator.

Thompson served in the Senate from 1994 to 2002, capturing the seat held by Al Gore in a special election. During his tenure, Thompson voted to oust President Clinton from office, but also was one of 10 Republican senators who voted against one of the two impeachment charges.

He supported campaign finance reform, oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, elimination of funds for the National Endowment for the Arts and a constitutional amendment to ban flag desecration. He also favored a ban on a late-term abortion procedure and voted against requiring criminal background checks for purchases at gun shows.

He was best known for his work on the Senate's investigative committees, focusing on Clinton's

## **1996 fundraising**

**Thompson has openly flirted with a candidacy for months following the creation of a Tennessee-based effort to draft him into the race**

**Over the next few days, he is to form a "testing the waters" committee called "Friends of Fred Thompson," which will allow him to begin raising money, hire staff and gauge support without officially committing to a White House bid Fundraising is to start Monday**

**Thompson spoke on a conference call Wednesday to several dozen people who officials said committed to raising money for him Participants said they were asked to raise \$46,000 apiece, the \$2,300 maximum from 10 couples or 20 people And, he will give a speech to Virginia Republicans in Richmond on Saturday**

**In recent weeks, Thompson has been addressing conservative groups, writing online columns on topics of the day and staking out positions on issues such as the Senate immigration overhaul bill He also is testing his pitch on the Internet and surrounding himself with officials who served in the Reagan administration and under George H W Bush**

**Despite the movement, officials cautioned that Thompson has made no final decision about whether to run or where and when to get in the race should he decide to go forward**

**They said he is considering several options for a possible formal announcement, and that one scenario has him officially announcing his candidacy over the July 4 holiday It's also possible, they said, that Thompson could wait until later in the summer to declare his intentions**

**Earlier this month, Thompson closed down a political action committee he had been operating since 2003 The committee donated to several federal candidates, but spent most of its money, \$180,000, on a management and consulting contract with a firm run by his son, Daniel Thompson of Nashville, Tenn**

**Associated Press Writer Scott Lindlaw in Burlingame, Calif , contributed to this report**

**Exhibit 16**

**New York Times**

**May 31, 2007**

**Stir in G O P. as Ex-Senator Moves to Run**

**By CARL HULSE and PATRICK HEALY**

**WASHINGTON, May 30 — Former Senator Fred D. Thompson of Tennessee has taken new steps that make it clear that he is likely to run for the White House, potentially shaking up a field of candidates that has failed to strike a chord with the Republican base.**

**Mr. Thompson is creating a committee that will let him begin raising money on Monday toward a full-blown national campaign, advisers said Wednesday. They hope his name recognition as an actor and radio commentator, conservative stands on issues like immigration and government spending, and strength in the South will differentiate him from the current crop of candidates.**

**The disclosure of his intensifying activities sent ripples through the party, with the campaigns of two of the main Republican candidates checking with their deputies in Iowa and New Hampshire to monitor any hiring or fund-raising efforts by Mr. Thompson, 64. One campaign held a brief strategy session to review poll results on Mr. Thompson, and found him well-positioned even as an unannounced candidate.**

**His moves come as Republicans have failed to coalesce around a candidate, as they struggle with the war in Iraq, President Bush's unpopularity and questions about the party's ideological direction. That has created a potential opening in a campaign field that, judging by polls and other reaction, has left Republican voters wanting more.**

**"Thompson is a credible conservative, he has a strong voting record, he has strong, almost Reagan-esque communication skills," said Scott Reed, who managed the presidential campaign of the Republican Bob Dole in 1996 and is unaffiliated with any campaigns. "And like Reagan, he believes in an**

ideological agenda in an undiluted way. He doesn't have a bunch of qualifiers on things when he defends the Reagan years."

In a conference call on Tuesday, 75 to 100 Republicans who had offered to back the politician better known for his acting career were urged to raise roughly \$50,000 each for the financial underpinnings of a Thompson bid that has been in the making for months. Five people closely involved in the emerging campaign discussed the plans in interviews Wednesday but asked not to be identified because they were not authorized to talk publicly about the details.

Participants on the call said Mr. Thompson was enthusiastic about becoming an alternative to current contenders led by former Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York, Senator John McCain of Arizona and former Gov. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts. They said he was not ready to formally announce without evidence that he could draw the necessary financial support.

"You have to raise money to be competitive even if you are Fred Thompson," said Representative Zach Wamp, a Tennessee Republican who has led an effort to draft Mr. Thompson.

In another development on Wednesday, Mr. Thompson asked to be released from his role on "Law & Order" on NBC, The Associated Press reported. The show's executive producer, Dick Wolf, said Mr. Thompson had told him that he "has not made a firm decision about his political future" but that he was concerned about "the creative and scheduling constraints of the upcoming season."

By joining the race late, Mr. Thompson may face questions about his ability to compete against the top-tier Republican candidates who have already raised at least \$10 million each. He will also not participate in the Republican debate in New Hampshire on Tuesday.

Tony Fabrizio, a Republican pollster and strategist who is not working for any candidate, said he was "surprised and a little sad" that Mr. Thompson had not declared himself a full-fledged candidate. Mr. Thompson has faced questions about his political commitment stemming from his days in the Senate.

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"Thompson will be competing against three guys who have been running flat out for months and working their tails off for well over a year," Mr. Fabrizio said. "If you're not going to get in this race and double-time on work, effort and commitment, how do you expect to win? You need to send signals that say, 'I'm here and I'm going to win.' "

Although Mr. Thompson planned in the coming days to create what is known as a "testing the waters" committee that would allow him to raise and spend money, members of Mr. Thompson's inner circle said that if the next few weeks were encouraging, he could officially enter the race as early as July.

"Fred Thompson is doing everything he has to do to gauge support to come to a final decision in a timely manner," said Mark Corallo, who has been acting as his spokesman.

The intense interest in Mr. Thompson's trajectory reflected concern in the rival Republican camps about his possible appeal across the South, among conservative and evangelical voters, who might be attracted to his mainstream conservative stances, like opposition to abortion and strong support for states' rights.

"There are still a lot of undecided voters in South Carolina, and Fred Thompson comes with enormous appeal — I'd call it Ronald Reagan-like appeal," said Katon Dawson, the chairman of the Republican Party in South Carolina, which holds one of the first presidential primaries. Allies of Mr. Thompson said they were confident he would attract big-name contributors and present and former office holders now supporting other candidates. But potential competitors questioned his ability to make such inroads.

Kevin Madden, a spokesman for Mr. Romney, disputed that Mr. Thompson might peel away conservative and evangelical voters whom the former Massachusetts governor has been courting. Mr. Madden noted that Mr. Romney might make his own gains in Thompson country when he appears Saturday as the keynote speaker at the Tennessee Republican Statesmen's Dinner in Nashville.



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"The governor looks at these events as opportunities — it could be a Romney crowd by the end of the night," Mr. Madden said.

Anthony Carbonetti, an adviser to Mr. Giuliani, called Mr. Thompson "a good senator who was entitled to run." But Mr. Carbonetti played down any concern in the Giuliani campaign that Mr. Thompson would run strongly among voters who are deeply concerned about national security and want a candidate who is socially conservative as well. Mr. Giuliani supports abortion rights.

Mr. Thompson, who was Republican counsel to the Watergate committee, served in the Senate for eight years before retiring in 2002 and was an ally of Mr. McCain's. Mr. Thompson's support for the campaign finance measure authored by his colleague from Arizona has brought criticism from conservatives, who have also raised some questions about his anti-abortion credentials.

For the past few months, Mr. Thompson has been running something of a shadow campaign, courting potential contributors, giving selected interviews and speeches, weighing in on conservative blogs and lining up staff members. At the same time, he has continued on the television show and as a commentator on ABC radio as a replacement for Paul Harvey. In April, he announced that he was in remission from lymphoma, a cancer he has had for more than two years.

The testing-the-waters group, to be formed as Friends of Fred Thompson Inc., allows him to take his political activities to another level but does not commit him entirely. It also frees him to gauge his support while leaving time for him to sort out his lucrative acting and commentating careers, which would have to be curtailed if he became a candidate or create equal-time issues.

The committee being set up does not yet fall under the Federal Election Commission reporting requirements, but if he enters the race all financial activity would have to be reported by mid-October.

With that in mind, Thompson advisers said the budding campaign would follow conventional campaign rules, including a \$2,300 limit per individual contribution for the primary. Allies said that on the conference call, backers

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were urged to collect at least \$46,000, or maximum donations from 20 individuals each. Advisers said several already had larger commitments.

"Money is a good test of whether the interest is as real as it seems," one Thompson adviser said.

*Kate Phillips contributed reporting.*

## **Exhibit 17**

***AP Interview Thompson says no decision yet, but sounds like candidate anyway The Associated Press June 3, 2007 Sunday 11 03 AM GMT***

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**June 3, 2007 Sunday 11 03 AM GMT**

**SECTION: POLITICAL NEWS**

**LENGTH: 797 words**

**HEADLINE: AP Interview Thompson says no decision yet, but sounds like candidate anyway**

**BYLINE: By LIZ SIDOTI, Associated Press Writer**

**DATeline: RICHMOND Va**

**BODY:**

**In one breath, Fred Thompson insists he has not yet decided whether to run for president In the next, he sounds like a man on the cusp of a full-fledged White House bid**

**"I've never desired to hold the office, particularly In fact, not at all," the Republican told The Associated Press "But, at this stage of things, I sometimes think that I do desire the opportunity to do some things that only a president can do "**

**After flirting with a candidacy for months, the former Tennessee senator and actor known to millions as the tough prosecutor on NBC's "Law & Order" took the first formal step toward the race for the GOP nomination Friday in establishing a preliminary campaign committee**

**Yet, Thompson claimed in an interview Saturday night, just before giving a speech to Virginia Republicans, that he still wasn't ready to commit to a campaign**

**"We've not made a final decision on it But obviously we're thinking pretty seriously about it," he said "Everybody who has an opportunity to make even a small difference in the course of the direction of the country has got to look at that very seriously "**

**Among his considerations, he said, was making sure "the man fits the times "**

**Despite his coyness, Thompson is all but certain to join the crowded GOP field led by Rudy**

Giuliani, John McCain and Mitt Romney and his entrance could come as early as July Fundraising begins in earnest Monday Headquarters are planned for Nashville, Tenn , and the Washington, D C , area A campaign team is forming And, tentative visits to Iowa, New Hampshire and other early primary states are in the works

"We will be talking to a lot of people, we'll be raising some money, we'll be putting together a staff in order to reach out to some more people and test the level of support we have," Thompson said "So we'll see a little bit later on where we go "

What percentage of him is undecided?

"I couldn't break it down into percents," he said, laughing

What would it take for him not to run at this point?

"I couldn't give you any odds on that either," he added with a smile

The Southerner with Hollywood star power and mostly conservative Senate credentials fares well in national popularity polls But he would enter the race some six months after the top-tier trio He significantly lags them in money and organization, raising questions about whether he can turn buzz on the Internet and in Washington into actual votes when the primaries begin in less than eight months

Undaunted, he belittled the notion that candidates can only be competitive if they've had a campaign organization in place for months and if they raise upward of \$100 million this year

"I don't know who made those rules I don't know who the experts are I'm too late to follow those rules even if I wanted to, and I don't want to," Thompson said Yet, he demurred when asked for his plan to counter his would-be rivals' strength

"At the end of the day, the people have to be receptive to you and your message," he said "It doesn't matter how many campaign advisers you've got or how much money you can spend If it's meant to be, it'll be "

Thompson, 64, said much has changed since he spurned calls to run for president in 2000 and added that he now finds the prospect appealing for several reasons

"I am married now, have two children at home I spend a lot of time thinking about the kind of world that they're going to grow up in, spend a lot of time talking to my wife about that," he said "And I think the country's different I think we have challenges now that we didn't have in 2000 I think that everybody was kind of sitting back, taking it easy and thinking that, you know, peace and prosperity were going to kind of last forever I think we know better than that now "

He said his until-now ambivalence about the country's top job might ultimately make him a better leader and, thus, a better fit for the White House than others

"If a person craves power for the sake of power, if he craves the office for the sake of holding the office, he's got his priorities mixed up," Thompson said "It's a desire to do something not to be something "

During his 1994-2002 Senate tenure, Thompson was considered a reliably conservative vote. However, he had few significant legislative achievements and he established a reputation as a less-than-hard worker.

"That's one rap that you can cure," Thompson said. Asked to name his greatest Senate accomplishment, he said "There were a lot of things. It doesn't always have to do with putting your name on a piece of legislation. There was an awful lot of bad legislation that I helped to stop for one thing."

But, he said "We'll have a chance to get into all that when I start telling everybody what a wonderful person I am but we're not quite at that stage."

At least not yet.

**Exhibit 18**

***Hire puts run closer for Fred Thompson Des Moines Register (Iowa) June 26, 2007 Tuesday***

**Copyright 2007 The Des Moines Register  
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Des Moines Register (Iowa)**

**June 26, 2007 Tuesday  
DM Edition**

**SECTION: METRO IOWA, Pg 1B**

**LENGTH: 1027 words**

**HEADLINE: Hire puts run closer for Fred Thompson**

**BYLINE: Beaumont Thomas**

**BODY:**

**The former senator, a Republican, has not said whether he will compete for the presidency**

**By THOMAS BEAUMONT**

**REGISTER STAFF WRITER**

**Former Sen. Fred Thompson has taken his first step toward organizing a campaign for Iowa's leadoff presidential nominating caucuses by hiring a top Iowa Republican campaign staff member, aides to Thompson confirmed Monday**

**Thompson has signed Andrew Dorr to serve as his Midwest political director should the actor and Tennessee Republican run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2008**

**"This is the kind of stellar team Senator Thompson is attracting as he continues to move forward in his determinations," Thompson spokesman Mark Corallo said. "It means Senator Thompson will be ready, should he decide to run, and will have the right team in place to be successful when it's time to go to the caucuses."**

**Dorr most recently worked as 2006 GOP gubernatorial nominee Jim Nussle's political director, having started in Iowa caucus politics in 2000 for then-Gov. George W. Bush. Dorr, 28, later worked for Bush's re-election campaign as deputy Midwest political director, concentrating on Iowa.**

Thompson is expected to announce his plans in the coming weeks. This month he formed an organization that allows him to raise money to hire staff and travel as he decides whether to join the crowded 2008 GOP candidate field.

He has not decided yet whether he will participate in the Ames straw poll, a high-profile Iowa GOP fundraiser set for mid-August.

Details for the event are taking shape while state party officials await word from Thompson.

Iowa Republican Party officials have set the speaking order and determined where each of the eight candidates planning to attend the party fundraising event will pitch their tents around Iowa State University's Hilton Coliseum on Aug. 11.

Thompson was not represented at a meeting in Des Moines last week where the presidential campaigns planning to attend the Ames event were assigned their spots, officials said.

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who has been the most aggressive about organizing for the fundraiser, will start the series of 20-minute speeches at 12:30 p.m.

Romney will be followed by U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo of Colorado, Chicago businessman John Cox, U.S. Rep. Ron Paul of Texas, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter of California, former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson and Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas.

The eight have committed at least \$15,000 each to reserve space to feed and entertain their supporters and other activists.

Individual tickets cost \$35 and allow holders to vote at one of dozens of voting machines set up in and around Hilton.

In the past, campaigns have bought blocks of tickets and often bused their supporters to the event.

Earlier this month, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani said he would not prepare for the costly straw poll arrangements, and Sen. John McCain of Arizona abandoned his plans to compete in the straw poll. Their names will still be on the ballot.

Giuliani's and McCain's decisions have thrown into question the significance of the Ames event to the 2008 presidential nomination race. The event has become a traditional first test of Republican candidates' strength in Iowa, the leadoff caucus state.

Chuck Laudner, executive director of the Iowa Republican Party, said Fred Thompson would be inserted into the speaking lineup should he decide to participate in the straw poll.

"If Fred gets in or the others change their mind, they'll get put in the middle," Laudner said. "The others don't want to wait on planning their day."

Reporter Thomas Beaumont can be reached at (515) 286-2532 or [tbeaumont@dmreg.com](mailto:tbeaumont@dmreg.com)

## **Campaign calendar**

### **TODAY**

#### **Beau Biden, son of Democrat Joe Biden**

- Iowa City, 7 15 p m , speech at Iowa Professional Firefighters convention, Sheraton Hotel, 210 S Dubuque St

#### **Democrat Bill Richardson**

- Iowa City, 10 30 a m , meeting with Johnson County residents, Iowa City Public Library meeting room, 123 S Linn St

- Iowa City, noon, speech to Iowa Professional Firefighters convention, Sheraton Hotel, 210 S Dubuque St

#### **Republican Tommy Thompson**

- Muscatine, 11 a m , lunch event, Diamond Dave's, 2608 Second Ave

- Wapello, 12 30 p m , lunch gathering, Farm Bureau Building, 245 Reutinger Drive

- Fort Madison, 6 p m , reception at Sheaffer Pen building, 301 H Ave

### **WEDNESDAY**

#### **Republican Tommy Thompson**

- Iowa City, 8 a m , breakfast meeting, Mill Restaurant, 120 E Burlington St

#### **Paul to visit Iowa this weekend**

**RALLY** U S Rep Ron Paul of Texas plans to be in Des Moines on Saturday despite his exclusion from a presidential candidates' forum Paul, a Republican, is planning to attend a rally at the end of the forum, which is sponsored by Iowans for Tax Relief and the Iowa Christian Alliance Paul's event begins at 4 30 p m at Hy-Vee Hall, the same venue as the forum

**EXCLUSION** Paul and two other lesser-known GOP candidates were not invited to the forum because organizers judged them to have little organization in Iowa That exclusion sparked vocal, and sometimes angry, protests from Paul supporters But Paul's national campaign chairman said his event Saturday complements the forum and is not a protest



**Firefighters union reschedules forum**

**CONFLICT** A Democratic presidential forum that had been scheduled for Iowa City today has been postponed after the firefighters union organizing the event learned that anticipated action in Congress on a bill important to the union posed a scheduling conflict for some candidates planning to attend

**CONVENTION** The forum was to be a part of the state convention of the Iowa Professional Firefighters union. The convention was to feature appearances today by Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York, Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson.

**LEGISLATION** The bill before Congress, known as the Employee Free Choice Act, would, in part, allow employees to form unions by signing cards authorizing union representation, instead of signing the cards and then voting later. Union leaders say the current method of voting allows employers to discourage employees from voting for union representation.

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## **Exhibit 19**

### **Fred Thompson Defends His Lobbying Past**

**AP Interview: Fred Thompson Defends Record As Washington Lobbyist**

**By ERIK SCHELZIG**

**The Associated Press**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.**

Fred Thompson, a likely Republican presidential candidate, on Tuesday defended his work as a Washington lobbyist, telling The Associated Press that lobbying is an important part of life because "government's got their hands in everything "

The actor and former U S senator from Tennessee added, "Nobody yet has pointed out any of my clients that didn't deserve representation "

Thompson, who likes to cast himself as a political outsider, earned more than \$1 million lobbying the federal government for more than 20 years. He lobbied for a savings-and-loan deregulation bill that helped hasten the industry's collapse and a failed nuclear energy project that cost taxpayers more than a billion dollars.

He also was a lobbyist for deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was widely criticized for endorsing "necklacing," the gruesome practice of execution where gasoline-soaked tires are thrown over a person's neck and set ablaze.

In September 1991, Aristide said "The burning tire, what a beautiful tool! It smells good. And wherever you go, you want to smell it."

Aristide became president in Haiti's first democratic elections in 1990, but he was deposed in a military coup a few months later in 1991.

Lobbying records show that in 1991 Thompson called then-White House Chief of Staff John Sununu on Aristide's behalf. Thompson was working "in connection with efforts to obtain the restoration of the democratically elected government" of Haiti, the records say.

Aristide was restored to power in 1994 by U S troops under President Clinton. He was elected to a second term in 2000, but was overthrown again in 2004, fleeing amid an armed rebellion and protests against corruption and other problems.

In a brief interview with the AP, Thompson said he expects to hear criticism about his lobbying activities as he moves closer to declaring his candidacy. Opponents emphasized his lobbying work during his Senate races in 1994 and 1996.

"They'll talk about it probably with the same results," he said.

Thompson said he doesn't take much stock in talk about whether he's too connected to the halls of power in Washington.

"I've never talked about that inside-outside stuff," he said. "I've been critical of Washington, both before, during and after my Senate days."

Thompson said he made his home in northern Virginia so he could commute between Washington and New York for his radio and television work. After leaving the Senate in 2002, Thompson joined NBC's drama series "Law & Order" and later became a commentator on ABC radio.

More than 200 supporters gathered earlier Tuesday at the Nashville airport to greet Thompson. He told the crowd he's "testing the waters" about a run, "but the waters feel pretty warm to me."

Thompson was scheduled to attend a fundraiser in Nashville later in the day hosted by Mike Curb, a record label founder and former lieutenant governor of California.

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**Exhibit 20**

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire**

**July 6, 2007 Friday 9 51 PM GMT**

**SECTION: STATE AND REGIONAL**

**LENGTH: 585 words**

**HEADLINE: In special status, Thompson doesn't have to disclose money yet**

**BYLINE: By JIM KUHNHENN, Associated Press Writer**

**DATELINE: WASHINGTON**

**BODY:**

**Come next weekend, presidential candidates will be opening up their second quarter finances and placing their spending and their donors up for a new round of scrutiny Fred Thompson will not**

**Thompson, the "Law & Order" television actor and former Republican Tennessee senator, has been retaining staff, opening a headquarters, holding fundraisers and touting his credentials as a potential White House contender But he has not said definitively that he's a candidate for president**

**Instead, Thompson is officially "testing the waters" of a campaign It's a status that allows him to explore a candidacy without having to file financial disclosures with the Federal Election Commission unless and until he decides to run**

**Thompson held a fundraiser last week in Nashville at the home of Mike Curb, an independent record producer and former lieutenant governor of California Atlanta developer Thomas Bell was holding another event Friday at his home**

**Donors could pay \$1,000 to attend or \$2,300, the maximum contribution allowed, to participate in a private reception**

**Bell, who has known Thompson for more than 30 years, said he was expecting to raise up to \$400,000 Friday evening**

**"This has been the most unbelievable fundraising effort," Bell said in an interview "It's the easiest money I've ever raised "**

He said donors, many of whom have already given the maximum to other GOP presidential candidates, believe a Thompson candidacy is "our only shot at getting a Republican elected this time "

Thompson associates had initially said his "testing the waters" committee hoped to raise \$5 million before he announces his decision later this month. A spokesman for Thompson, Mark Corallo, would not discuss his finances on Friday.

"We're not putting out numbers or goals," Corallo said in an e-mail response. "Our goal, if Fred Thompson gets into the race is to raise enough money to win."

Under federal election laws, potential candidates are allowed to raise and spend money to determine whether to get into a political contest. They're only required to disclose those finances if they become candidates.

As a result, if Thompson chooses to run and indications are that he will, he won't have to file a disclosure report until Oct. 15, after the end of the third quarter finance period. At that point, Thompson would have to report all the money he has raised, including anything he obtained during this exploratory period.

"As long as you are coy enough not to say 'I'm running,' you can stay out of the system," said Meredith McGehee, policy director of the nonpartisan Campaign Legal Center. "The advantage is that you are not subject to the same disclosures. You can be a private citizen. You can get gifts, you can get speaking fees."

The law prevents potential candidates who are in the "testing the waters" phase to raise money that can be spent after they become a candidate. But the rule is vague, stating only that the money not be "in excess of what could reasonably be expected to be used for exploratory activities."

Corallo said the money Thompson is raising is "for the testing the waters committee."

Sheila Krumholz, executive director of the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, said there is a sound reason to permit potential candidates to delay filing while they weigh their chances.

"Candidates need to be able to gauge whether they have a viable chance of success," she said. "Should they test the waters and find them chilly, the FEC is not going to make them go through all the paperwork."

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**Exhibit 21**

***Thompson Begins Two-Day Southland Fund-Raising Trip Today City News Service July 31,  
2007 Tuesday 9 46 PM PST***

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**July 31, 2007 Tuesday 9 46 PM PST**

**LENGTH: 882 words**

**HEADLINE: Thompson Begins Two-Day Southland Fund-Raising Trip Today**

**DATELINE: NEWPORT COAST**

**BODY:**

**Former Tennessee Sen Fred Thompson conducted two fund-raisers in Newport Coast today, hours after his campaign announced he raised \$3 46 million in June for his expected bid for the Republican presidential nomination**

**"The level of support and enthusiasm from people across this country is inspiring," Thompson said in a statement**

**Both fund-raisers were closed to the news media, the common practice among most presidential candidates of both parties**

**Thompson is scheduled to conclude a two-day trip to Southern California tomorrow by conducting a fund-raiser in Bel Air**

**Thompson, who played Manhattan District Attorney Arthur Branch on NBC's "Law & Order" the past five seasons, formed an exploratory committee June 1, allowing him to raise funds His campaign was required to formal report fund- raising figures to the Internal Revenue Service today**

**By comparison, former Massachusetts Gov Mitt Romney led all Republican presidential candidates by raising \$44 4 million through June 30, while former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, the Republican front-runner, had raised \$35 6 million, according to reports filed with**

the Federal Election Commission

Romney had \$12.1 million on hand and Giuliani \$18.3 million

Because Thompson is not a declared candidate, he did not have to file a report on his fund-raising through June 30 by the July 15 deadline

"We are in a 'testing the water' phase," Linda Rozett, the communications director for Friends of Fred Thompson, told The Times. "It would not be accurate to compare a candidate to a noncandidate."

Thompson's first fund-raiser at a Newport Coast home was billed as a "VIP Reception," with tickets costing \$2,300, the maximum individual contribution for the primary campaign under federal law. Donors had the opportunity to have a picture taken with Thompson. Tickets for the "general reception" which followed were \$1,000 each.

The host committee included Assemblyman Chuck DeVore, R-Irvine, and Newport Beach City Councilman Mike Henn.

Ticket prices for tomorrow's Bel-Air fund-raiser were not available.

Despite not being an announced candidate, Thompson was in second place or in a statistical tie for the lead in most of the national polls for the Republican presidential nomination released this month.

Thompson is expected to declare his candidacy shortly after Labor Day.

In an appearance June 12 on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" Thompson said, "I've never craved the job of president, but I want to do some things that only a president could do."

Thompson has said he supports President Bush's Iraq War troop surge, opposes gun control and has called the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision giving the woman the right to an abortion during the first three months of pregnancy "bad law and bad medical science."

Thompson's rare combination of an acting background and conservative politics has led to comparisons with Republican icon Ronald Reagan. One Thompson backer has set up a Web site, AnotherRonaldReagan.com, to encourage his candidacy.

Coincidentally, one of Reagan's films was titled "Law and Order," a 1953 Western where he portrayed a marshal.

Like Reagan, Thompson's exposure to the public was boosted through radio. Until recently, he had a daily broadcast of a commentary entitled "The Fred Thompson Report" on ABC Radio. Reagan broadcast daily radio commentaries between leaving the California governorship in 1975 and beginning his successful 1980 presidential campaign.

Thompson also tapped into the new media with his commentaries available in blog and podcast form on the ABC Radio Web site

Thompson, who will turn 65 Aug 19, first came into the public eye in 1973, when as co-chief counsel to the Senate Watergate Committee, a question he asked of former Nixon administration aide Alexander Butterfield revealed the existence of the White House taping system

A longtime Washington lobbyist, Thompson was elected to the Senate in 1994, filling the final two years of the term of then-Vice President Al Gore, before being re-elected to a full term in 1996 He abandoned plans to run for re-election in 2002 following the death of his adult daughter from an accidental drug overdose

The New York Times reported this month that Thompson spent nearly 20 hours working as a lobbyist on behalf of a group seeking to ease federal rules on abortion counseling in 1991 and 1992, apparently contradicting his opposition to abortion

"He stands by his record and his ratings by pro-life groups," Rozett told City News Service

The Wall Street Journal reported in April that in his five years since leaving the Senate, his political action committee has paid \$244,000 to his son Daniel's Nashville, Tenn -based consulting firm

Rozett said she had no comment on the younger Thompson's professional activities

Thompson's acting career began in 1985, portraying himself in "Marie," the story of a whistleblower he represented in a Tennessee Parole Board scandal

Thompson's other acting credits include twice playing presidents, the fictional Charles Ross in 2005's "Last Best Chance" and Ulysses S Grant in "Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee," which premiered May 27 He also portrayed the White House chief of staff in "In the Line of Fire" and appeared in "No Way Out" "The Hunt for Red October" "Days of Thunder" and "Cape Fear "

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## **Exhibit 22**

### **St Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)**

**Thompson taps Missouri for more contributions**

**By Jo Mannes**

**POST-DISPATCH POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT**

**Wednesday, Aug 22 2007**

**For a potential candidate for president, Republican Fred Thompson has already logged more time in Missouri — and likely raised more money — than some declared contenders**

**By Tuesday evening, the former Tennessee senator's fundraising event at a private home in Ladue capped more than 24 hours in the state**

**Thompson's visit began Monday with a similar fundraiser in Kansas City. He spent the night there before addressing thousands Tuesday morning at the national VFW convention**

**Here and in Kansas City, Thompson attended several private meetings with potential supporters**

**"Clearly I'm going to be reaching a resolution and making a statement in the near future," Thompson said in an interview at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in Clayton, before the Ladue event**

**He added, "Missouri is the kind of state that's going to be very important" for any presidential campaign**

**Thompson — more recently known for his acting stint on the TV show "Law and Order" — said he's flattered by his warm political reception in the state. Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder and more than 50 state legislators have endorsed him**

**"I continue to be gratified that strangers would show up and contribute what I consider to be large amounts of money for someone who is testing the waters for president, who they've never met," Thompson said**

**When asked what may be the attraction, Thompson replied "I'm honest. That in and of itself has opened some doors for me."**

**In his speeches around the state, public and private, Thompson said he's emphasizing that the country can no longer ignore its problems — which he said include federal overspending, a troubled economy, a stretched military and Islamic terrorism**

**National security must take top priority, he added. "Al-Qaida is strong, they are here and they're trying to get their hands on weapons of mass destruction."**

**But at the same time, Thompson added, "We've got to be realistic about our military power, and**

what we're capable of doing and not capable of doing. Clearly we were not totally prepared for what turned out to be the challenge in Iraq. We've got to come to terms with that."

Thompson said the United States has a special place to maintain in the world as "a beacon of hope and liberty and prosperity for a lot of people for an awful lot of years."

Lawyer Tom Walsh, who hosted Tuesday night's fundraiser here, praised Thompson as the Republican Party's best communicator since former President Ronald Reagan. "He offers the best leadership, the best message and the ability to communicate to the American people," Walsh said.

Thompson said, "I wince a bit" when he hears the frequent comparisons with Reagan, a Republican icon.

In the spirit of truth-telling, Thompson said with emphasis, "I'm not the best communicator in the world."